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George Washington

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Washington, George, 1732-
1799.

Letters and recollections o

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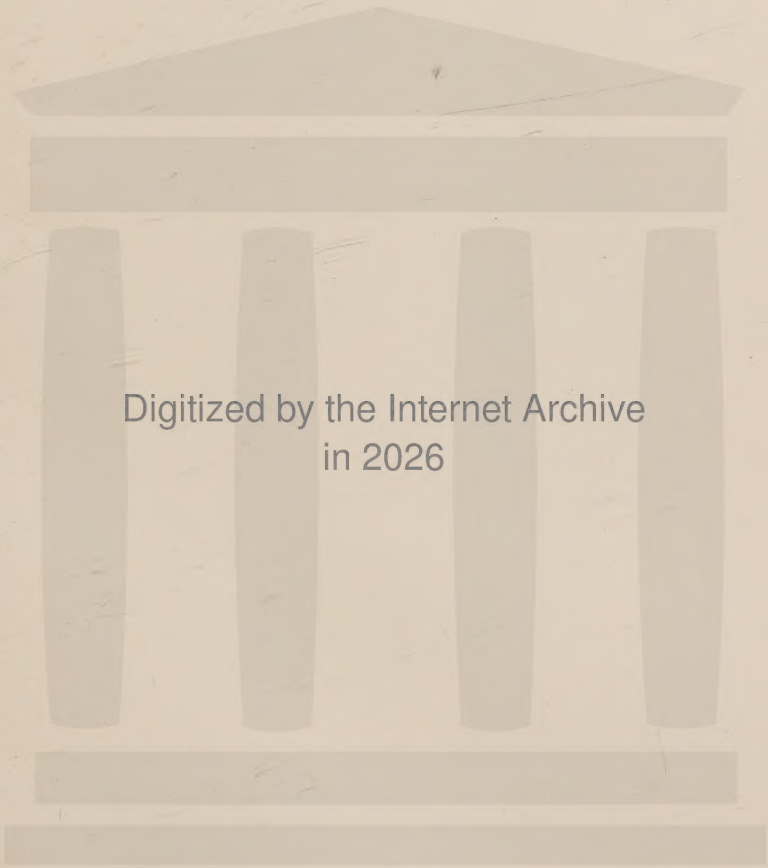

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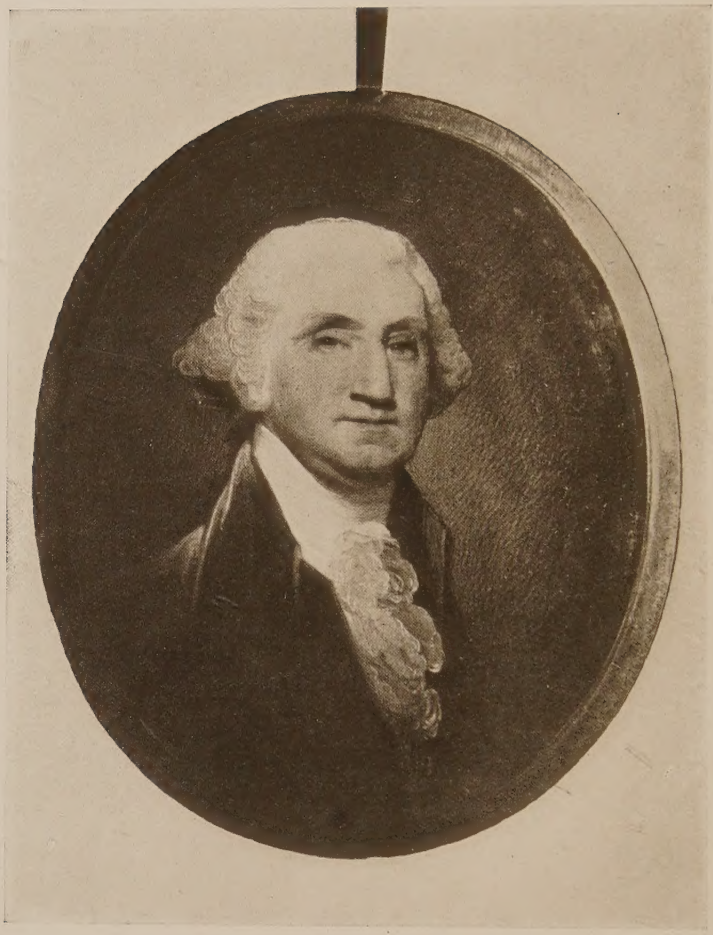

MINIATURE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Presented to Tobias Lear by Mrs. Washington.

Letters and Recollections of George Washington

1732-1799

Being letters to Tobias Lear and others between 1790 and 1799, showing the First American in the management of his estate and domestic affairs.

With a diary of Washington's last days, kept by Mr. Lear.

Illustrated from
rare old portraits, photographs and engravings

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New York
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1906

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The letters to Mr. Tobias Lear contained in this volume were copied from the originals written by Washington. The volume was furnished to me, while I was preparing Washington's Writings for the press, by Mr. Lincoln Lear, and I now present it to his daughter, Miss Louisa Lear.

JARED SPARKS

Cambridge,
October, 1852.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The publishers acknowledge gratefully the permission given by Mr. W. K. Bixby to use in this collection those letters to Tobias Lear included in a privately printed volume of Washington letters already issued by him.

But for the courteous assistance received at the Lenox Library, much that it was our privilege to include in this collection, must have been omitted.

The volume of "Letters to William Pearce from George Washington," brought out by the Long Island Historical Society, is the authority for several interesting letters to Mr. Pearce herein reproduced.

INTRODUCTION.

The letters from George Washington to my grandfather, Tobias Lear, included in this volume, are interesting as showing a side of that great man's character new to the public. His mastery of detail in domestic life appears to have been as remarkable as his power to conduct the affairs of a great nation.

His confidence in my grandfather is proved by these letters to him—if proof is needed. He entrusted him with the management of those household details so interesting and important in his eyes. Tobias Lear was born in 1760 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; he graduated from Harvard in 1783, entering at once upon the duties of tutor to Washington's adopted children, afterwards becoming his private secretary, in which capacity he remained for sixteen years, or until Washington's death. He was also his military aide, with rank of Colonel, when such services were needed. Besides his professional position, he had a higher standing in the family through marriage. After the death of his first wife—Mary Long, of Portsmouth, N. H., my own grandmother—he married Fanny Washington; and again, after her death, Frances Dandridge Henley, a niece of Martha Washington. Through this last

marriage, I became the possessor of a very valuable and unique quilt, made by Mrs. Washington's wn hands, which was used on George Washington's bed. The miniature of Washington here reproduced was presented to Tobias Lear by Martha Washington, after her husband's death. It has a large lock of his hair at the back of it.

The miniature of Tobias Lear is a remarkably fine one, painted by Cottoni, an Italian. The setting is of gold, bordered by a narrow band of blue enamel, edged on each side by seed pearls.

Tobias Lear's only child—my father—was christened Benjamin Lincoln, after General Lincoln. My grandfather writes, in a letter to William Atkinson: "Our boy has the name of Benjamin Lincoln in memory of my true friend and one of the best of men. Many express their surprise that a son of mine, born too in this family, should receive any other name than that of George Washington. But altho' I love & respect the great man who bears that name, yet I would not for the world do a thing that could savour of adulation toward him—and if I would not adulate him I am sure I would adulate no human being."

Washington was this child's godfather, presenting him with a silver pap-cup and spoon. Unfortunately, the cup was stolen.

The locket here shown, containing a lock of my grandmother's hair, is of glass, set in gold, upon which is engraved the date of her death, and "To B. L. L. from his friend M. Washington."

Tobias Lear evidently had, in a quiet way, considerable influence over Washington. The diary mentions the fact of his moderating Washington's excitement over something he was reading in the paper. It was also through his persuasions that his New England trip was taken.

I have written this short introduction to show in what high esteem Washington held Lear. As to my grandfather's affection for Washington, the diary shows.

I was defrauded of the originals of these letters.

LOUISA LEAR EYRE.

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LETTERS AND RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

LETTERS AND RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

No. 1

PHILADELPHIA, Septr. 5th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

After a pleasant journey we arrived in this City about 2 o'clock on Thursday last. To morrow we proceed (if Mrs. Washington's health will permit, for she has been much indisposed since she came here) towards Mount Vernon.

The house of Mr. R. Morris had, previous to my arrival, been taken by the Corporation for my residence. It is the best they could get. It is, I believe, the best *Single house* in the City; yet without additions, it is inadequate to the *commodious* accommodations of my family. These, I believe will be made.

The first floor contains only two public Rooms (except one for the *upper* Servants). The second floor will have two public (drawing) Rooms & with the aid of one Room with the partition in it, in the back building will be sufficient for the accommodation of Mrs. Washington & the children & their maids—besides affording me a small place for a private study and dressing room. The third story will furnish you and Mrs. Lear with a good lodging Room,—a public office (for there is no place below for one) and two Rooms for the Gentlemen of the family. The Garret has four good Rooms which must serve Mr. and Mrs. Hyde (unless they should prefer the Room over the Wash house),

William—and such servants as it may not be better to place in the addition (as proposed) to the back building. There is a room over the Stable (without a fireplace, but by means of a Stove) may serve the Coachman & Postillions; and there is a smoke house, which possibly may be more useful to me for the accommodation of Servants, than for smoking of meat. The intention of the addition to the back Building is to provide a Servants' Hall, and one or two (as it will afford) lodging Rooms for the Servants, especially those who are coupled. There is a very good Wash house adjoining the Kitchen (under one of the Rooms already mentioned). There are good Stables, but for 12 horses only, and a Coach house which will hold all my Carriages.

Speaking of Carriages,—I have left my Coach to receive a *thorough* repair against I return (which I expect will happen before the first of December) and I request you will visit Mr. Clark (into whose hands it is committed) often, to see it well done; and that I may not be disappointed in the time allowed him for the completion, which is by the 25th. of November. The harness is also left with him, and he has my Ideas on this subject:—generally they are, if the wheel harness (which I understand was left at New York) can be made complete, and look as well as if they were new, then & in that case, he is to make a set of pole-end Harness to suit them, both to be plated—but if this cannot be accomplished, the set is to be made entirely new, —and in the best style.

I have requested Colo. Biddle to take measure for laying in wood for me, this being, he thinks, the proper time for doing it, & to draw upon you for the amount of Cost.

The pressure of business under which I laboured for several days before I left New York, allowed me no

time to enquire who of the female servants it was proposed or thought advisable to remove here, besides the wives of the footmen,—namely, James and Fidas. The Washerwomen, I believe, are good, but as they, or one of them at least, has a family of children—quere, whether it is necessary to incumber the march,—and the family afterwards with them? I neither contradict or advise the measure—your own judgment, and the circumstances of the case must decide the point:—but unless there is better reason than I am acquainted with for bringing Mrs. Lewis, her daughter and their families along, they had better, I should conceive, be left:—but as I never investigated the subject, I will give no decisive opinion thereon.

As Mr. Hyde some little time before I left New York expressed dissatisfaction, signifying he could neither enjoy under the conduct of the servants the happiness he wished, or render those services he thought might be expected from him, it might be well for you before I am at the expense of his removal, to know decidedly what his determination is, and his views with respect to a continuance. There can be no propriety in sadling me with the cost of his transportation, & that of his baggage, if he has it in contemplation to leave me at, or soon after his arrival. And I am the rather inclined to make this suggestion *now* as time will allow you to scrutinize his accounts, and to form a good comparative view of them with Francis's. As a steward, I am satisfyed William (independent of the woman, & what her excellence is I really know not) would be full his equal—and I think the dinners, if the Cook had more agency in the planing of them, would be better;—at least more tasty, but this Mr. and Mrs. Hyde's pride will not submit to. As I have got to the end of the paper and am tired, I shall only add that your letter of the 3d. with its enclosures came safe—and that

Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for Mrs. Lear and yourself. I am sincerely & affectionately—

Yrs.

P. S.

In a fortnight or 20 days from this time, it is expected Mr. Morris will have removed out of the house. It is proposed to add bow windows to the two public Rooms in the South front of the house, but as all the other apartments will be close and secure the sooner after that time you can be in the house, with the furniture, the better, that you may be well fixed and see how matters go on during my absence.

MR. LEAR.

No. 2.

BALTIMORE, *Septr.* 9th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to the information given in my last, I left Philadelphia on Monday and arrived here yesterday afternoon. To day I rest. To morrow I proceed, and hope to arrive safe at Mount Vernon on Saturday, after taking dinner at Abingdon, on our way.

In order that you may not be too fast or too slow in your removal to Philadelphia, it might be well to open a correspondence with Mr. Morris, requesting him to inform you at what time the house will be ready to receive the furniture, because it is proposed as I was informed after writing to you on Sunday last, to have the Rooms painted after Mr. Morris should have left it. I would not let the bow windows, or any other addition to the house, or any of the out buildings be any impediment to your removal, for you will have sufficient Room to stow the furniture (intended for the two large Rooms) in some other parts of the house; and for all those who will accompany you; and by being on the spot you will have it more in your power to provide

wood, and make such other arrangements as shall be found necessary, than you can do at a distance, besides accomplishing the main point (that is, the removal) before the weather becomes cold and intemperate.

In my last I left it with you to decide on the propriety of bringing the Washer women. I do so still. But with respect to Mrs. Lewis and her daughter, I wish it may not be done, especially as it is in contemplation to transplant Hercules or Nathan from the Kitchen at Mount Vernon to that in Philadelphia; and because the dirty figures of Mrs. Lewis and her daughter will not be a pleasant sight in view (as the Kitchen always will be) of the principal entertaining rooms in our new habitation.

Upon a second conversation with Mr. Clark, the Coach maker, it was concluded to have the Harness for the Coach quite new and plated; and I should be glad if you would see that they are handsomely executed. He is to make harness for the pole-end as well as for the wheel horses, & promises that every thing shall be completed by the middle of November.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris have insisted upon leaving the two large looking Glasses which are in their best Rooms, because they have no place (they say) proper to remove them to, and because they are unwilling to hazzard the taking of them down. You will therefore let them have, in place of them, the choice of mine. The large ones which I purchased from the French Minister they do not incline to take; but will be glad of some of the others. They also will leave a large Glass lamp in the entry or Hall, and will take one or more of my Glass lamps in lieu of it. In disposing of the Yards Mr Morris will take in (to the House he removes to) the part which formerly belonged to it. I mention this that you may not be surprised at the attempt.

Nothing further occurs at present. Mrs. Washington unites with me in good wishes for Mrs. Lear and yourself and I am,

Sincerely & affectionately
Yrs.

No. 3.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 17th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Having received no letter from you since the one dated the 3d Instant, I have nothing to reply to. The motive for writing to you at this time is, that upon unpacking the china ornaments which accompanied the mirrors for the Tables, it was found (notwithstanding they were in Bran) that many of the delicate and tender parts were broken; occasioned, I believe, by the Bran not being put in and settled down by a little at a time. To press the Bran around the Images (you have to remove with the platteaux) will not answer; still it must be so compact as to prevent friction, in moving; and this can only be done by putting each Image or figure in a separate box, with Bran, by little and little, shaking and settling it by degrees as it is added.

By a letter which Major Jackson has received from General Steward, he has completed his removal, & Mr. Morris had begun to take things out of the house I am to have, to make room for my furniture, but as Mr. Morris was desired, so I am persuaded he will inform you when it will be safe and proper for you to remove. The sooner I think it can be done the better; as you will be able to make such arrangements, and provide such conveniences as you will know we shall want, and which (I suppose) through the channels they are now making, may be accomplished.

We have resolved to take one of my Cooks with us, and if upon examining into the matter it shall be found

convenient, I may also take on a boy;—at any rate, there will be no occasion for Mrs. Lewis or her daughter; for a Scullion may always be had in Philadelphia.

In one of my former letters I suggested to you the propriety of knowing decidedly what Mr. Hyde's views are before he is removed from New York at my expence, and I now repeat it:—first, because it is necessary for me to be placed upon a certainty;—and secondly, because if he has any difficulties or doubts—or has it in contemplation to *talk* in a short time (which is but too common a case) of increased wages, it would be best to separate at once, as well for these reasons as the one I communicated in a former letter and because I fear *his* Table is a much more expensive one than it ought to be. But as this is conjecture only, I will not charge him with it—tho' I think the short duration of the first Pipe of Pintard wine, is a pretty evident proof that that article was expended more expeditiously than it ever was in Francis's time. How it has been with other things if you have been able to compare the accts. of the one with the other, you must be the best judge.

We arrived safe at this place on Saturday last, but not without one upset of the Charriot and Waggon—fortunately neither was hurt. We all unite in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear, and I am your sincere friend and affectionate Servant,

Take measure either by yourself or through
Colo. Biddle to engage Wood in season & whilst
it is to be obtained on good terms.

No. 4.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 20th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

The Servant who carried my letter of the 17th. to the

Post office in Alexandria, returned with yours of the 12th. which shall be the Subject for this reply.

What ever Ideas or remarks may have been excited by my going into Mr. Morris's house I know not, but this I am sure of, that to do it was farthest from my expectations. The Corporation of the City (by whom it was engaged) made attempts it seems to get other places, but none being to be obtained to their liking, Mr. Morris's was offered, and accepted, subject to my decision. To the Academy there were exceptions which it was said could not be overcome. To Hunter's Houses there were impediments. The Houses of Mrs. Allan and Mr. Guirney could not be had because Mrs. Pollock (tenant in the latter) would not relinquish it, and Mr. or Mrs. Kepley's was found not to answer. This, I was told, was the history of the business.

I have not the least objection to Fida's wife's coming to Philadelphia in the vessel with the other servants; nor to her continuing in the family afterwards, if she chuses it and can do the duties of her station *tolerably*, because I think *he* merits indulgence on James' account (who I also think is a very good servant) I consent readily, if it was his expectation & wish that his wife may accompany the servants in the manner suggested by you, or as a house maid if she is thought fit for it;— but not being acquainted with the views of the parties (James and Wife I mean) I can only say that I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever you do respecting the matter. As I do not believe the House can be better supplied with Washer women, I think it best to bring those you have; on condition that I shall not be burthened with Fanny's children after they arrive. Thus much for the lower Servants and their connections.

With respect to Mr. Hyde and his wife, if the duties of the family are too much for *both*, will Mr. Hyde *alone* be able to discharge them? If she quits, will not

a substitute be necessary? In that case or in case Mr. Hyde *acts alone*, does he expect the same wages as are now given to both? If it is not stated on some paper handed in by Mr. Hyde, it is nevertheless strong in my recollection, that his wife's services were stated at one, and his own at 200 dollars per Annum. I have no wish to part with *Mr.* or *Mrs.* Hyde, first because I do not like to be changing;—and secondly because I do not know where or with whom to supply their places. On the score of the accts. I can say nothing never having taken a comparative view of his and Frauncis's, but I am exceedingly mistaken if the expences of the second Table at which Mr. Hyde presides, has not greatly exceeded that kept by Frauncis; for (but in this I may be mistaken) I strongly suspect that *nothing* is brought to my Table of *liquors*, *fruits* or *other things* that is not used as *profusely* at his. If my suspicions are unfounded, I shall be sorry for having entertained them, and if they are not, it is at least questionable, whether his successor might not do the same thing;—in which case (if Hyde is honest and careful, of which you are better able to judge than I am) a change without a benefit might take place, and is not desirable, if they are to be retained on proper terms. I say *they*, for if Mrs. Hyde is necessary for the purposes innumerated in your letter, and the Cook is not competent to the desert, making Cake, &c. I do not see what use Hyde, more than William, would be without her—nor do I see why *she* should execute part of *his duties* and thereby make her own too burthensome. Francis, besides being an excellent Cook, knowing how to provide genteel Dinners, and giving aid in dressing them, prepared the desert, made the Cake, and did every thing that Hyde and Wife conjointly do; consequently, the services of Hyde alone, are not to be compared with those of Francis, and if his accts. exceed (in the same

seasons) those of Frauncis 4 or £5 a week and at the same time appear fair, I shall have no scruple to acknowledge that I have entertained much harder thoughts of the latter than I ought to have done, altho' it is inconceivable to me how other families on 25 hd. or 3000 dollars should be enabled to entertain more company, at least more frequently, than I could do for twenty five thousand dollars annually.

I am glad to hear that the furniture of the large drawing Room, especially the Glasses, are packed in a manner which you think secure. With respect to the Table ornaments, my opinion has been so fully given on the mode of putting them up, that I shall say nothing further on the subject in this letter, and as I presume a correspondence has been opened between Mr. Morris and you, I have no doubt of your embracing the proper moment for their removal, & the best mode of accomplishing it.

Mr. Macomb may in reality be indifferent as to the taking the House off your hands—but it is highly probable he will assume the appearance of it, in order to derive an advantage in the terms, therefore as I shall have to pay rent for it until May, if he or some other does not take it, it would be well to bring him to some decision *at once* or advertise the renting of it, and the sale of the buildings I have put up at the same time. You will make better terms for these than any Agent that will be left behind & besides, it may hasten Mr. Macomb (who from what I have heard I'm sure wants the house) by alarming his fears, that others may step in. To receive some compensation would be better than to sink the *whole* rent & to lose the buildings which I have erected on the lots. If there is no likelihood of *my* getting a tenant for the house you are in, would not Mr. Macomb be glad to take it at the difference which disinterested and impartial men would

fix between it and the house *he is in* and for me to pay the rent of the latter until a Tenant for it could be obtained? This would be a step gained and is perhaps what he is driving at.

With respect to Dingwell I join Colo. Hamilton & Mr. Jefferson in opinion, that it is no more than a catchpenny plan,—yet, for the reason assigned by Genl. Knox, I think twenty or thirty dollars may be given him, professedly for his trouble; with an assurance that it is believed B—— has meant an imposition on *him*, in as much as part of his information *we know* is unfounded, & am sure from the complexion & expression of some of the letters, pretended to be received from some of the King of G. B.'s Ministers, that they are spurious. Yet, nevertheless, as it is supposed that *he*, *Dingwell*, meant well, and has been at some trouble in his report, this sum is given expressly on those accts.

We have all of us been very well since we came to this place and all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear.

With sincere regard & affecn.
I am, Yrs. &ca.

No. 5.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 27th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you (the date I do not recollect, keeping no copies of my letters to you) I have recd. yours of the 17th. & 20th. Inst. and shall answer such parts of them as require it.

I am glad to find that the house according to Mr. Morris's notification to you will be ready about the time you had made arrangements for the removal of my furniture, the mode of doing which, is, I am persuaded,

the cheapest and best. How have you disposed (for safety) of the Pagoda? It is a delicate piece of stuff and will require to be tenderly handled.

I expected that Mr. Macomb, if he found that no other person was disposed to take the house off my hands, would endeavor to impose his own terms: and allowing me only £100 for seven months use of it, when the rent (independent of the houses I put on the lots) is £400, is a pretty strong evidence of it. And if you do not take some measures to see what can be had for the Wash house and Stable, he will impose his own terms there also. But after all, we are in his power, and he must do as he pleases with us.

As the Lustre is paid for & securely packed up and may suit the largest drawing Room at Mr. Morris's, I do not incline to part with it; the Franklin Stoves and other fixtures, if they cannot be disposed of without loss, must be brought round with the other furniture: we may find use for them. Such things as are freighted in the common way (if the vessel you desired Colo. Biddle to procure is unable to carry the whole) had better be of the kinds which require least care.

The sale of the old Charriot was proper, for although the price is small it will be so much saved for the public. If much worn or lumbering articles could be disposed of to any tolerable account, might it not be better to sell them at New York & buy (if necessary) new ones at Philadelphia, than to pay freight for them round?

Mrs. Morris has a mangle (I think they are called) for Ironing of Clothes, which, as it is fixed in the place where it is commonly used, she proposed to leave and take mine. To this I have no objection provided mine is *equally* good and convenient; but if I should obtain any advantage, besides that of its being up, and ready for use, I am not inclined to receive it.

Mrs. Washington and all of this family unite in best

wishes for you and Mrs. Lear, and I am your sincere friend and

Affectionate Servant,

No. 6.

MOUNT VERNON, OCTR. 3d. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 22d. Ulto. came safe. I wish the information given by Mr. Danl. Parker to Doctr. Craigee may prove true. No mention of such event is in Morris's letter to me, but the date is prior to that of Mr. Parker's by six days. The declaration and counter-declaration of the Minister of Britain and Spain are published with the Communication thereof to the Lord Mayor of London; and yet it seems to be the opinion of *some* of the Paragraphists, that the matter remains unsettled. Further information (not contained in the News papers) of these or any other interesting matters, you would do well to give me the earliest intelligence of. Mr. Jefferson being from New York will more than probable delay official advices through the Office of Foreign Affairs longer than it otherwise would be in coming to me.

I request after you get to Philadelphia and previous to our arrival there, that you would use your best endeavours to ascertain the characters or reputation of such schools as it may be proper to place Washington at, so soon as we shall be fixed in our new habitation;—particularly if there be any fit school in the College for him, under good and able Tutors, & well attended. His trip to Mount Vernon will be of no service to him, but will render restraint more necessary than ever. If the College is under *good* regulations, and have proper tutors there for boys of his standing to prepare them for the higher branches of education, quere, whether it

would not be better to place him in it at once? the presumption being that a System prevails, by which the gradations are better connected than they are in Schools which have no correspondence with each other. Mr. S— is a man of acknowledged abilities but—it may not be well perhaps to say more in a letter, especially as his re-instatement may have given rise to a reform of that conduct which did not escape censure formerly.

The enclosed letters having been put under cover to me, will of course occasion delay in the receipt of them by you & Fidas. In all your communications respecting the Servants no mention has been made of John's wife. What do you understand to be her plan? Enclosed is a letter from him to her, or some friend I suppose of hers—and another from James to his deltoboso.

If I have not already advised you of it, it is necessary now to do so, that Mrs. Stuart has paid for the tickets you purchased for her and Mrs. Alexander that was.

When you can get at the last letter or letters of the Count de Estaing to me, I wish you would send me a transcript of what he says, or whether any thing of a Bust he has sent me, of Mr. Necker, together with a number of Prints of that Gentleman and the Marquis de la Fayette, which are come to my hands in a package from Baltimore.

We all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear and I am

Your sincere friend

And affectionate servt.

No. 7.

MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 10th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 26th. & 30th. of the last & 3d. of the present month have come duly to hand.

Without entering into the details, I can assure you that I am perfectly satisfied with the steps you have taken respecting the vessel which is to bring the furniture and servants to Philadelphia—with your agreement with Mr. Macomb & whatever you shall do with the houses I was compelled to build on his Lots—with your conduct towards and agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Hyde—and with your taking the carpeting from Barry and Rogers, although it arrived much after the time it ought, by agreement, to have been delivered. As Mr. Macomb will, more than probable, get the houses for little or nothing, you acted very properly, I think, in taking down the closets, partitions and fixtures, which I purchased of the French Minister, and which would have been equally convenient to him, rather than increase his gains at my loss. If the vessel can bring them, they can unquestionably be made useful in our intended habitation—if not, they will probably fetch something.

The easy and quiet temper of Fanny is little fitted I find for the care of my niece Harriot Washington who is grown almost, if not quite a woman, & what to do with her at the advanced *size* she is arrived at, I am really at a loss. Her age (just turned of 14) is not too great for a boarding school, but to enter now with any tolerable prospect, the Mistress of it must not only be respectable, but one who establishes and will enforce good rules. She is prone to idleness, and having been under no controul, would create all the difficulty. I have formed no resolution respecting what will be proper for me to do with her, but that I may the better judge, I request that you will enquire whether there be a proper School (for her to board at) in Philadelphia. If so, whether there are at it genteel girls of her size & age—who the mistress of it is,—what her character—terms, &ca, are—the numbers of it—who of the principal fami-

lies, and how they are entertained and accommodated? I have not intimated any thing of this matter to Harriot yet, who if it should be, would I dare say be a good deal alarmed, as she had I dare say rather mix with other company than be in a boarding school. Among other things enquire what is taught at these schools. I must further desire, that in pursuing your enquiries after a School for Washington, particularly if one is to be found in the College at Philadelphia fit for him, that you would extend them to the reputation of the higher branches in that Seminary, & whether much good could be expected from my fixing my Nephews George & Lawrence in it. From what I can find, they are doing but little in Alexandria, having left the study of the languages, & indeed Mr. McWhir, & are learning French & the Mathematics under a Mr. Harron. George & indeed Lawrence, I am told, are well disposed youths, —neither of them wanting capacity; and both, especially the first, very desirous of improvement. I would wish to know what their studies and board would stand them annually—in a word, the best estimate (exclusive of clothes) of the expense of fixing them at that place.

As I have had no account yet of what has been done, or is doing to our new habitation, or what ideas to annex to Mr. Morris's information to you that the House would not be ready for your reception before the 10th. of the present month, I should be glad to receive a full statement of these matters as soon as you arrive at Philadelphia & have time to look into things.

We all join in best wishes for you & Mrs. Lear—and for your—and the safe arrival of everything in Philadelphia.

With sincere regard and affection
I am Yrs.

No. 8

MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 27th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

On Sunday last I returned from a twelve days excursion up the Potomack, and found your letters of the 6th. & 10th. from New York and 14th. & 17th. from Philadelphia. I am very glad to hear that you are all arrived at the latter place safe, and the furniture, as you conceive, in good order. It was very right to give John's wife the same privilege that was allowed to others, and Mr. and Mrs. Hyde's coming in the stage is equally agreeable to me.

I have no particular directions to give respecting the appropriation of the furniture. By means of the Bow windows, the back rooms will become the largest, and of course will receive the furniture of the largest dining and drawing Rooms, and in that case, although there is no closet within the former, there are some in the Steward's room directly opposite, which are not inconvenient; or (but here I am speaking somewhat at random, not knowing to what use it has hitherto been applied) there is a small room adjoining the Kitchen (by the Pump) that might, if it is not essential for other purposes, be appropriated for the Images, save china, and other things of this sort, which are not in common use. Mrs. Morris, who is a notable lady in family arrangements, can give you much information in all the conveniences about the house and buildings; and I dare say would rather consider it as a Compliment to be consulted in these matters (as she is so near) than a trouble to give her opinion of them, or in puting up any of the fixtures, as the house is theirs, and will revert to them, with the advantages or disadvantages which will result from the present establishment of things. I am very glad you pressed them not to

incommode themselves by an inconvenient remove—we are very happy to hear of her recovery and request you to present our Compliments of congratulation to her & Mr. Morris on the occasion.

I am very anxious to have the rent which I am to pay for my new residence ascertained before I take up my quarters in it—you will perceive by the enclosed answer to a letter I wrote to Mr. Morris on the subject that this point is yet unsettled. Previous to my application to Mr. Morris, I was informed by the Committee, with whom I had conversed on the subject, that it was well understood I was to pay rent. I have therefore to request that you will get the matter fixed in some way or other with them. A just value I am willing to pay—more I have no idea will be asked, but my fears rather are that they want to make it the expence of some public body (which I shall not consent to) and that they do not care to avow it.

If the servants can be conveniently accommodated without using the Stable loft, it will certainly be much the best & safest; for I am certain no orders given to my people wd. restrain them from carrying lights if they were to be in it as lodgers.

I send you a letter with the Bill of loading for wines shipped by Fenwick Mason &c., which if arrived you will give the necessary orders about. By return of the person who carries this and other letters to the Post office in Alexandria, I expect to receive accounts of later date than the 17th. from you, and possibly something more indicative of Peace or War between Spain & England which has hung long in suspence.

Our best wishes attend you and Mrs. Lear, and

I am Dear Sir

Your affectionate friend

No. 9.

MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 31st. 1790.

Dear Sir,

I have recd. your letter of the 24th. since the date of my last to you, and am very glad to hear that the most valuable parts of the furniture have borne their transportation without receiving damage, and that your expectation of equal success respecting the remainder is sanguine. I am pained, however, to find there is a doubt that the house will not be completely finished and ready for our reception towards the latter end of next month. At all times this would be attended with inconvenience, but at *that* season and while Congress *are in session*, it would be exceeding so. As the Pagoda can be put up in half an hour, at any time, it may (if not already disposed of) remain unfixed, until we arrive, and that I may be in Philadelphia in time, it is my present intention to leave this place on Monday, the 22d. of next month. I could not clearly understand Colo. Van Horne when I applied to him (as I came through Baltimore) for a *proper and convenient* Stage Coach for part of the family to return in. He said he *could* provide and *would* provide and so on, but although he wanted to convey the idea of a certain reliance on him it did not appear clear to me, that I could rely on him for more than the common Stage Coach or Waggon;—this being the case, and the Driver who brought us hither being desirous of coming for us again, adding that he could always get a freight to Alexandria, induces me to request that you would, as his was a large and roomy *close* coach, his horses good & himself a careful driver, make enquiry (without entering into an engagement with the proprietor) whether the same Coach, horses & man could be had, and whether he would *positively* engage to be here on the

20th. or 21st. of Novr. if after hearing from you, I should request it. The terms on which he would come must be explicity defined, that I may, without delay, return a precise answer. You will readily perceive that I do not mean to place my sole dependence upon this Stage. No: I shall by this conveyance *also* write to Colo. Van Horne to know what absolute dependence may be placed on him. Thus having two Strings to my bow I may chuse the one which promises best. You will readily perceive also that there is no time to spare in my hearing from *you*—*you* from *me*—and for the Coach to be here in time. Colo. Biddle can point you to the man, who ought to know that his terms should be moderate, because Colo. Van Horne's (as Horses will go from Stage to Stage only) must be lower than the last Trip cost me.

I should conceive that a wreath round the crests that will be on the pannels of the Coach would be more correspondent with the Seasons which will remain thereon, than the motto. And that the motto on such of the Plates as require it, upon the Harness, would be best;—but as this is mere matter of opinion, unaccompanied with a view of the work, I am so far from being tenacious of it, that I shall leave it to you and him (Clarke) to adopt which of the two shall appear best, when the whole is taken into one view. What appearance does the Coach assume at present?—and how will it look when finished?

Are Mrs. Brodeau's terms, such as do actually exist, or does she mean to avail herself of the occasion to commence a new era in them? They (especially the Board) appear to be high. Pray without giving any expectation of Harriot to either, for I have decided nothing respecting her,—know what are Mrs. Pine's terms. Mrs. Brodeau was I understand once of Mr. Morris's family; this may occasion a predilection in that quar-

ter. Mrs. Pine's standing in that way not being long, little may be said of her on that account, but she may be equally capable & possibly more respectable than the other.

Let me know what answer was given to, or notice taken of, the Extract you have sent me, from the letter of Count de Estaing when he was written to on the subject. I fear I might not have been sufficiently polite & thankful for his present,—as the thing itself has entirely escaped me,—& the box with the prints scarcely brought any recollection of the circumstance to my mind.

I have heard nothing yet of Capt. Vance, but am glad you sent the sugar. By mistake a letter from James Tilghman, Esqr. respecting a legacy to Miss Anderson from Colo. Colvill, was enclosed to you in my last, which I desire may be returned in your next, after the receipt of this, as I shall want to answer, even if I cannot comply with it.

As we shall have new connections to form with different Tradesmen, find out those in each branch who stand highest for skill and fair dealing. 'Tis better to be slow in chusing than to be under the necessity of changing—and that it may be done upon sure grounds, compare one acct. with another (for partialities, perhaps less laudable motives, mix very much in all these things), and see where the preponderancy is.

We all join in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lear & with affectionate regard I am

Your sincere friend

No. 10.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 7th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 28th. and 31st. ulto. are now be-

fore me, and the parts of them wch. require it shall be answered.

If the Schools in the College are under good masters, and as fit for boys of Washington's standing as a private School, I am still of opinion (for the reasons mentioned in a former letter) that he had better be placed there in the first instance. The propriety however of this will depend, 1st. upon the character & ability of the master, under whose tuition he will be—2d., upon the police & discipline of the School—and 3dly., upon the number of boys,—for I lay it down as a maxim, that if the number of the pupils is too great for the tutors, justice cannot be done, be the abilities of the latter what they will. What the due proportion beyond which it ought not to go, is in some measure matter of opinion, but an extreme must be obvious to all, and you will easily decide upon it, in your own mind, if nothing should be finally resolved upon by me previous to my arrival.

Enclosed I send you a letter from Mr. Gouvr. Morris with the Bill of Cost of the articles he was to send me. The prices of the plated ware exceed—far exceed the utmost bounds of my calculations; but as I am persuaded he has done what he conceives right, I am satisfied and request you to make immediate payment to Mr. Constable if you can raise the means,—the duties are also to be paid. You will see by the enclosed (left open for your perusal) that I have promised this. Ought not the sum remitted by Colo. Humphreys to Mr. Morris to be deducted? Make this without creating any difficulty, the subject of arrangement with Mr. Constable. As these coolers are designed for warm weather, & will be, I presume, useless in cold, or in that which the liquors do not require cooling,—quere, would not a stand like that for Castors, with four apertures for as many different kinds of liquors, just sufficient (each aperture) to hold one of the cut decanters

sent by Mr. Morris, be more convenient for passing the bottles from one to another, than handing each bottle separately, by which it often happens that *one* bottle moves, *another* stops, & all are in confusion? Two of these, one for each end of the table, with a flat bottom, with or without feet (to prevent tilting), open at the sides but with a raised rim as Castors have and an up right, by way of handle in the middle, could not cost a great deal were they made wholy of Silver. Talk to a Silver Smith and know the cost—and whether they could be *immediately* made—if required in a handsome fashion. Perhaps the Coolers sent by Mr. Morris may afford Ideas of taste; perhaps too (if they are not too heavy when examined) they may supercede the necessity of such as I have described, by answering the purpose themselves. Four double flint glasses (such as I expect Mr. Morris has sent) will weigh I conjecture four pounds; the wine in them when full will be 8 lbs. more. These added to the weight of the Coolers will, I fear, make these latter too unwieldy to pass, especially by ladies, which induced me to think of a frame in the form of Castors—which, by being open at bottom, would save silver.

I approve, at least till inconvenience or danger shall appear, of the large Table ornaments (images) remaining on the side boards, and of the Pagoda's standing in the smallest drawing Room, as you may have fixed it. Had I delivered any sentiment from here respecting the fixture, that is the apartment I should have named for it. Whether the green which you have,—or a new yellow Curtain, should be appropriated to the Stair Case above the Hall, may depend upon your getting an *exact* match in colour &c. of the latter. For the sake of appearances one would not, in instances of this sort, regard a small additional expense.

If the servants can be accommodated without the

rooms, which were intended for them at the end of the Hall, the use you propose to put them to, is certainly a good one But what is to become of Fidas and James's Wives? Is it not their wishes to have their wives (if they incline to act as house maids) with them? And will not the contrary be a foundation for the loss of their husbands?

I hope my Study (that is to be) will be in readiness against I arrive. And if the rubbish and other litter occasioned by the People of Mortar & the Carpenters is at a Stand,—I wish that every thing of the sort may be removed, and the yard made and kept as clean as the Parlour. That was always the case in Mr. Morris's time, and has become more essential now as the *best* Rooms are *now* back, and an *uninterrupted* view from them into the yard and kitchen which is nearly upon a level with the dining Room.

I am really sorry on public as well as private accounts —to hear of Mr. Hare's loss. You would do well to lay in a pretty good stock of his,—or some other Porter. As Mrs. Washington writes to Mrs. Lear, I shall add my best wishes to her only & affectionate regards to you—being

Your sincere friend

No. 11.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 10th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 4th. with a Postscript of the 5th., came to my hands this moment that is on 9 o'clock on Wednesday night,—and this ansr., if the bearer of it obeys my orders will go off for Alexandria before day in the morning. The intention of it is to desire that Page's Coach, Horses & driver, may be at this place in time for me to commence my journey for Philadelphia on Mon-

day the 22d. of this month. He will be allowed six days (which is one more than it will take him to come) previous to that day—and as many days after (the 22d. included) as I shall be on the road. I now depend upon the conveyance—& shall only add in this letter that I am your friend and—

Affectionate Servt.

No. 12.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 12th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

I am about to write you another short letter for tomorrow's post,—although, in the course of the Mail, it cannot reach you before Tuesday night. The intention of it is, to inform you again that I depend upon Page's Coach, Horses and driver,—for the removal of the children &ca., to Philadelphia, and that I shall not, unless I hear something to the contrary, from you, make any other provision for the journey. The reason for my *again* writing on this subject is that Giles who was sent from this on Wednesday, and directed if the stage had left Alexandria, to pursue it to George Town, and to have my letter to you deposited in the mail, instead of doing it gave the letter to one of the passengers a man he did not know—one who had so *comical* a name that he does not recollect it, tho' told—but who knew *me*—knew *you*—knew *Major Jackson*—and who was so anxious to oblige that he *all but* demanded the letter from him. The case being thus and knowing how little dependence there is upon conveyances by private hands is the inducement of this second Epistle —and for my desiring you to inform me by the first Post—what I have to depend upon—for the mail returning will (if it leaves Philadelphia on Wednesday) be in Alexandria before Page's Coach, admitting my

first letter met with no delay. I shall add no more at this time—the house being full of Company—than our best wishes to you & Mrs. Lear—and that

I am Yr. Affecte.

No. 13.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 14th. 1790.

(Private)

Dear Sir,

Having wrote two letters to you on the subject of Page's stage coach (one or the other of which if not both, it is presumable will certainly have got to hand before this can) I shall add no more thereto, than that the Coach of Page is *now* my dependence.

I am, I must confess, exceedingly unwilling to go into a house without first knowing on what terms I do it, and wish that this sentiment could, in a delicate way, be again hinted to the parties concerned with me. I cannot, if there are no latent motives which govern in the case, see any difficulty in the business. Mr. Morris has most assuredly formed an idea of what ought—in equity—to be the rent, of the tenement in the condition he left it; and with this aid the Comee., I conceive, ought to be as little at a loss in determining on the terms it should rent for, with the additions and alterations which are about to be made,—presumably in a plain and neat manner,—not by any means in an extravagant style; because the latter is not only contrary to my wishes, but would, in reality, be repugnant to my interest and convenience;—principally, because it would be the means of keeping me from the use and comforts of the house to a later day; and because the furniture & every thing else would require to be accordant therewith,—besides its making *me pay*

an extravagant price perhaps to suit the taste of others —to comply with unreasonable charges of the workmen—or to be taxed with the blended expences of the two houses (if they some times work at one and some times at the other). I do not know, nor do I believe that any thing unfair is intended by either Mr. Morris or the Committee;—but let us for a moment suppose that the Rooms (the new ones I mean) should be hung with tapestry—or a very rich & costly paper (neither of wch. would suit my present furniture—that costly ornaments for the bow windows—extravagant chimney pieces, &c. &c.—were to be provided—that workmen were to charge a pound for that which ought not to cost ten Shillings;—and that advantage would be taken of the occasion to new paint every part of the house—buildings &c., would there be any propriety in adding ten or 12½ P Cent for all these to the Rent of the House in its original state, for the two years that I am to hold it? If the solution of these questions are in the negative, wherein lyes the difficulty of determining that the Houses and lots, when completed agreeably to the plan proposed, ought to Rent for so much? After all is done that can be done the residence will not be so commodious as the house I left in NewYork(with the buildings I added) for there (and the want of it at Mr Morris's will found a serious inconvenience) my office was in a front Room below, where persons on business immediately entered; whereas in the present case they will have to ascend two pair of Stairs, and to pass by the public rooms, as well as private Chambers, to get to it;—notwithstanding which I am willing to allow as much as was paid by Mr. Macomb, & shall say nothing if more is demanded—unless there is apparent extortion; and that the policy of delay is to see to what height Rents will run before mine is fixed. In either of these cases I should not be pleased;—and to

occupy the premises at the expence of any public body—*I will not.* There is one expression in your letter of the 4th. the meaning of which is somewhat doubtful,—viz.—"The additions repairs &c. of the house in "which Mr. Morris now lives are likewise to be com-"prehended in the expenditures, to be refunded by the "rent in this house." Is it meant by this that the rent of the House I am to go into is to be *increased* by the expenditures on the one Mr. Morris has removed to, or, that the rent of the first is to be considered as *security* only for payment of the latter? If this is all I have naught to say against it,—but dire necessity only would induce me to submit to the other. We all unite in best wishes for you & Mrs. Lear—and

I am Your Sincere and Affecte. friend

No. 14.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 17th. 1790.

Dear Sir,

I am just setting off for Alexandria—bad as the day is—to a dinner given by the Citizens of that place to me;—and hope by the mail of this evening to be placed upon some certainty with respect to Page's Stage Coach, and that my Journey to Philadelphia may, as was intended, commence on Monday next the 22d.

Upon examining the Caps of Giles and Paris I find they (especially Paris's) are much worn, and will be unfit to appear in with decency, after the journey from hence is performed, I therefore request that you will have two handsome ones made, with fuller and richer tassels at top than the old ones have. That the maker of them may have some government in the size the enclosed dimentions of their heads, will I presume be sufficient. As the addition of a pair of leading Harness to the Coach will not greatly enhance the aggregate cost I wish, in order that the whole may be of a piece, that

you would order Clarke to make a sett for the two leaders (with a Postillion Saddle, the Saddle cloth of which to be the same as the Hammel Cloth with the same lace) that I may have Harness alike for Six Horses when the Coach is used—with that number.

I am Yr. Affecte.

No. 15.

MOUNT VERNON, Novr. 22nd. 1790.

Dear Sir,

The day is come, and the hour at hand, or very nearly—when our journey will Commence for Philadelphia. From the Stage drivers account, the Roads in places, especially between George Town and Baltimore, are almost unpassible. This circumstance, and the desire of not injuring my horses, will make my movements very slow,—and they may be precarious as Giles is very unwell,—and my bungling Smith, has lamed one of the Horses that draw the Waggon in shoeing him.

I think Mr. Page judged very wisely in not sending his new Coach for me. I thank him for offering to send it to meet me, at Chester, but as it is my wish & intention to enter the City without any Parade or notice, the old Coach will answer the purposes of the New One.

Austin and Hercules go on in this day's Stage, and will unquestionably arrive several days before us. Richmond and Christopher embarked Yesterday by Water,—the former (not from his appearance or merits I fear,—but because he was the son of Hercules and his desire to have him as an assistant) comes as a scullion for the kitchen.

Your mare shall receive the same usage, care, & attention, that my Brood Mares do; and you are very

welcome to the Jack. She may remain yours or be mine at your own price, as is most agreeable to yourself.

I fear from the accts. you have transmitted of the state of the buildings & repairs of the House I am to occupy, that I shall be exceedingly incommoded. I shall have twelve horses with me, if nothing therefore is done to the Stables, Hiltzimer's must be engaged for such as cannot stand in my own. I have only time to adjoin best wishes—and that I am

Yr. Affecte.

No. 16.

Spurrier's, Novr. 23d. 1790.

Dear Sir,

With some difficulty (from the most infamous Roads that ever were seen) we have got to this place, and are waiting dinner; but have no expectation of reaching Baltimore to night.

Dunn has given such proofs of his want of skill in driving that I find myself under a necessity of looking out for another Coachman. Before we got to Elizabeth Town we were obliged to take him from the Coach and put him to the Waggon. This he turned over twice;—and this morning was found much intoxicated. He has also got the horses into a habit of stoping.

Mrs. Washington's predilection for Jacob is as strong as my prejudice and fears are great. Yet in your enquiries after a Coachman, ask something concerning Jacob. He wanted much it seems to return to us whilst we were in Philadelphia.

The stage is this instant starting & I can only add—that I am Yrs.

No. 17.

BLADENSBURG, March 27th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

My attention was so much occupied the days preceeding my departure from Philadelphia, with matters of a public nature, that I could scarcely think of those which more immediately related to my own.

Who the Steward and house keeper shall be, must be left to Mrs. Washington and yourself to determine from circumstances, & the offers that are made. Francis, unless Holker's man could be unexceptionably obtained, I should prefer for reasons I have already mentioned to you;—but be *him* or *them* whom they may, it must be expressly understood, that wine is not admissable at their Table. If it is so under any pretence whatever, it will terminate as the permission given Hyde has done. It would be well in all other respects to have a clear definition of the expectations and obligations of the Parties, that mistakes may not happen. If Frauncis should be employed, it ought to be made known to him that his services in the kitchen as usual, will be expected, & that in case of the present Cook's leaving me, or attempting to raise his wages; —that he is to do with Hercules & such under aids as shall be found indispensably necessary, nay, further, that if upon trial he finds, as I am *sure* is the case, that we can do without Vicars, he may be discharged. How far, under present circumstances, the dutch Girl in the Kitchen, is necessary, you must Judge of, and act accordingly. As Jacob's wife is brought into the family, the new Landry women will go out of Course.

I wish you would have all the packages moved out of the Garden and have it kept in complete order, at *my expence* and the paved yard, also:—Rhemer and Jacob are certainly competent to this business. The top of One of the Urns in the Garden was broke off by its fall-

ing. I made John Mauls carry it to Mr. Hyde, let it be cemented on again.

Furnish Mrs. Washington with what money she may want—and from time—to time—ask her if she does want, as she is not fond of applying As I write in haste, I shall no more at this time but my best wishes for Mrs. Lear &c. For the history of our travels and adventures *so far* I refer to a letter I wrote to Mrs. Washington,—from Anapolis Yesterday. I am Your Sincere and Affectionate friend

No. 18.

George Town, March 28th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Late this afternoon your letters of the 23d. & 24th. instant came to hand, and as the Mail is about to be closed (leaving this before Sun-rise in the morning) I shall, as I must, be short.

I return some letters to be filed:—one from Colo. Blaine to be given to Genl. Knox, to be acted upon as he pleases;—he is as well acquainted with the man as I am, and knows the want of such a character better than I do;—another letter from Colo. Cannon which I may venture to say proves him to be, what I will not call him, and that I need never look for any Rent from him. I pray you to say to him, if he does come to Philadelphia during my absence—that his *own* statement given at New York—does not justify his prest. report—and that I am too well acquainted with the prices of grain & the demand for it last year in his own neighbourhood, to be imposed upon by such a tale as his letter exhibits. In a word that I am by no means satisfied with his treatment of me;—for sure I am I shall get nothing from him but *assurances* of improvements, whilst he is either applying my rents to his own use, or

suffering the Servants to go free from the payment of them.

One of the Pads of the Waggon harness, it seems, was left at Mr. Clark's: send it by the Stage to Alexandria;—if it comes too late the matter will not be great. I am not able to say yet how long I shall be detained at this place where I arrived before breakfast this morning.

I am Yr. Affecte.

P. S.

I send with my best remembrance, a Sermon for Mrs. Wn. I presume it is good coming all the way from New Hampshire, but do not vouch for it—not having read a word of it. It was one of your enclosures.

No. 19.

Mount Vernon, April 3d. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you from George Town, I have I believe recd. your letters of the 23d. 24th. and 27th. Ult.

Whether a certain Gentleman is the man I conceived him to be, or such a one as is hinted at in the letter you enclosed me, is not yet certain, but admitting the latter it is too late to look back. I cannot be in a less productive situation by the engagement than I was; the principal disadvantage resulting from it will be, that I can never count upon the payments until they are actually made,—consequently can never speculate upon the money which I wished to have done. If I recollect rightly there is something in Colo. Cannon's letter (transmitted to you) concerning the Kanhawa Lands; it it is indicative of an intention to let them, or that he conceives himself empowered to do it— I desire you will inform him of the sale of them.

You did well in forwarding the letters from the Western Territory, although they were upon opening of them found to be laws only.

Until we can restrain the turbulence and disorderly conduct of our borderers it will be in vain I fear to expect peace with the Indians—or that they will govern their own people better than we do ours.

Mr. Jefferson's idea with respect to the dispatches for me, is a very good one, and I desire it may be put into Execution. I send you some letters to file, not finding it convenient to be incumbered with them on my journey. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear— and I am

Yr. Sincere friend & Affecte. Servt.

No. 20.

MOUNT VERNON, April 6th. 1791

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 31st Ult. and 1st. Inst. have been received. To morrow I continue my journey. A request of Genl. Knox's (consequent of Colo. Lee's declining his appointment) to name Officers for the Colln. of levies to be raised in Berkley &c. has prevented its being done Sooner.

I am perfectly satisfied that every necessary and proper step will be taken to procure a good Steward,— & a good house keeper—& therefore, shall add nothing further on this head. Let the man who is at work in ye Garden or has been there, be paid—I mean to be under no obligations to any one.

The pad arrived in good time and I expect my horses (as they seem well recruited) will go on better than they have come. I send more letters to be filed. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear & the child—and I am Sincerely & Affectionately

Yrs.

No. 21.

RICHMOND, April 12th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you from Mount Vernon, your letters of the 3d. and 5th. Instant have been recd., the last at this place where I arrived yesterday to dinner.

If the case is as you suspect, it is expedient and proper to remove Washington to a School in which he will make some progress in his learning; and that it is so, I have had suspicions for some time, principally on account of his fondness of going to the College. Boys of his age are better pleased with relaxed discipline—and the inattention of their tutors, than with conduct that brings them forward. It would have been highly pleasing to me (for the reasons, which I have often expressed) to have continued Washington at the College, but, if after the enquiries you have made, it should appear, that there is either incompetency in the masters from the number of boys in the School, or from other causes, I will not waste his time in compliment to that Seminary,—but before you finally decide on this matter, it is my wish as Colo. Hamilton, Genl. Knox and the Attorney-General have sons in the same predicament (if they are not removed) that you would consult and act in Concert with them; & I shall be satisfied in whatever is done in consequence of it. And should like to have him at the same School that Hamilton's son goes to.

The Attorney-General's case and mine I conceive, from a conversation I had with him respecting our Slaves, is some what different. He in order to qualify himself for practice in the Courts of Pennsylvania, was obliged to take the Oaths of Citizenship to that State; whilst my residence is incidental as an Officer of Government only, but whether among people who are in

the practice of *enticing* slaves *even* where there is *no* colour of law for it, this distinction will avail, I know not, and therefore beg you will take the best advise you can on the subject, and in case it shall be found that any of my Slaves may, or any for them shall attempt their freedom at the expiration of six months, it is my wish and desire that you would send the whole, or such part of them as Mrs. Washington may not chuse to keep, home—for although I do not think they would be benefitted by the change, yet the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist. At any rate it might, if they conceived they had a right to it, make them insolent in a State of Slavery. As all except Hercules and Paris are dower negroes, it behoves me to prevent the emancipation of them, otherwise I *shall* not only loose the use of them, but may have them to pay for. If upon taking good advise it is found expedient to send them back to Virginia, I wish to have it accomplished under pretext that may deceive both them and the Public;—and none I think would so effectually do this, as Mrs. Washington coming to Virginia next month (towards the middle or latter end of it, as she seemed to have a wish to do) if she can accomplish it by any convenient and agreeable means, with the assistance of the Stage Horses &c. This would naturally bring her maid and Austin—and Hercules under the idea of coming home to *Cook* whilst we remained there, might be sent on in the Stage. Whether there is occasion for this or not according to the result of your enquiries, or issue the thing as it may, I request that these Sentiments and this advise may be known to none but *yourself* & *Mrs. Washington*. From the following expression in your letter "that those who were of *age* might follow the example of his (the Attorney's people) after a residence "of six months"—it would seem that *none* could apply

before the end of May—& that the non age of Christopher, Richmond & Oney is a bar to them.

I offer Mrs. Lear the child and yourself my best wishes—and with Sincere Esteem I am

Your Affecte. friend

No. 22.

NEWBURN, No. CARA Aprl. 21st. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Not having heard from you since I wrote to you from Richmond, the purpose of this is only to let you know where we are, and to cover the enclosed for Mrs. Washington.

We have, all things considered, come on tolerably well, yet, some of the horses, especially the two last bought—are not a little worsted by their journey, & the whole if brought back, will not cut Capers as they did at setting out.

I came to this place yesterday and shall proceed on tomorrow. Wilmington 100 Miles from hence will be my next halting place, from whence if the Post of this evening brings letters to me, they will be answered, for there will be no time to do it here, as not more than an hour is allowed him to stay. My best wishes to Mrs. Lear.

I am Yr Sincere & Affecte. friend

P. S.

The Post is just arrived without any letters for me.

No 23.

SAVANNAH, May 13th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

I have not I believe written to you since I left Richmond. At Charles Town—towards the last of my stay there—I recd. your letters of the 10th. & 15th. of April, but the continual hurry into which I was thrown—by

entertainments—visits—and ceremonies of one kind or another, scarcely allowed me a moment that I coud call my own—nor is the case much otherwise here.

No letters, North of Virginia will now reach me until I arrive at Fredericksburg in that State, which is the first place at which I shall strike the line of the Post. There are no cross Posts on this side Alexandria, and the chances of letters getting to me by private hands, as my rout back will be very wide of the Post Road, is so unfavorable that I have ordered all letters to be stopped at Charleston and sent back to the Post Office in Fredericksburg to await my arrival there.

The silence of Frauncis is evidence sufficient, that nothing is to be expected from him and if your prospects with the other person (mentioned in your letter) are no better, the plan suggested in your letter of the 14th. may be tried, as the best expedient that offers. A little experience (and there is time for it before the meeting of Congress) will prove the Utility or inutility of the Measure.

I came to this place on Thursday afternoon and shall leave it to morrow, after attending the first church. The Roads are abominably sandy and heavy—my Horses (especially the two I bought just before I left Philadelphia, and my old White Horse) are much worn down, and I have yet 150 or 200 miles of heavy sand to pass before I fairly get into the upper and firmer Roads.

Offer my best wishes to Mrs. Lear. I hope the child and yourself are in good health—I remain Your

Sincere & Affectionate friend

No. 24.

FREDERICKSBURG, June 12th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Yesterday we arrived at this place in good health,

but with horses much worn down. To morrow I expect to reach Mount Vernon—where even if my horses were able to proceed I am obliged to remain till the 27th. Instant— the day appointed by me at the last meeting, to meet the Commissioners at George Town, in order to fix on the Spot for the Public buildings, and for other purposes arising from the residence act.

I have at this place recd. your letter of the 30th. Ulto. but none of an intermediate date between that of the 15th. and it. Your directions to have them sent cross wise the Country, was unlucky—first because there are no cross Posts.—2nd. because my rout back was not irrevocably fixed—and 3d. because I had, knowing these circumstances, directed from Charleston all letters which might be following me, to be returned to this place to await my call. The slow movement of the mail in the three Southern States prevented (I presume) these directions getting to Richmond before the letters were forwarded to Taylor's Ferry, and my crossing at Carter's (a ferry much higher up James River) has been the cause or causes, I imagine of missing them.

Being interrupted by visittors I shall postpone until I arrive at Mount Vernon further communications, the principal, indeed the only purpose of this letter being to advise you of my arrival at this place, and of my intended stay at Mount Vernon for the reasons which I have assigned. My best wishes attend you, Mrs. Lear, and the child & I am Sincerely and Affectionately

Yours

No. 25.

MOUNT VERNON, June 15th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 29th. Ulto. I acknowledged the

receipt of from Fredericksburg, since which another of the 5th. Inst. has been received.

The Commissions for Whitaker and Mc. Dowell, were properly issued, as those also are mentioned in your letter of the 5th. and it was on my mind, that blank commissions signed by me were left with you, for the officers of the Revenue cutters. This not being the case, quere— if there is not a necessity of sending some to me for my signature, as I shall not leave this before the 27th., may be detained at George Town two or three days, and must afterwards proceed slowly, on account of the low condition of my horses. The Secretary of the Treasury will be able to decide on this point, and I wish you to act in the matter accordingly as he shall advise you. I find another of the federal Judges (Hopkinson) has by his death occasioned a vacancy in the District of Pennsylvania. As some have and others will unquestionably apply for the appointment, I wish you would use every *indirect* means in your power to ascertain the public opinion, with respect to the fittest character as a successor to Hopkinson. Pursue the same mode to learn who it is thought would fill the present Auditor's office (as he will be appointed Comptroller) with the greatest ability and integrity. Several have been brought to my view for the Comptroller's place (who I suppose would accept of the Auditor's) as able & meritorious Characters; among these are the names of Mr. Richmond, the present Comptroller or Auditor of Maryland,—Colo. Pickering—Mr. Kean—Colo. Drayton, a Gentleman of So. Carolina, — Colo. Forest & others.

It is hardly to be expected by the Trustees of *any* College that complaints will not be made by the parents or friends of the boys who go to it, if they conceive they are neglected;— and if Trustees mean to do their duty, & Support the Reputation of the Seminary, they ought

I am sure to be thankful, for well founded Representations of neglect in the economy—police—or inattention of the professors & teachers.

I am glad to hear that the affairs of our own family are going on well—and it might not be improper to hint to the Servants who are with you, (before they are joined by those with me) that it will be very idle & foolish in them to enter into any combination for the purpose of supplanting those who are now in authority; for the attempt in the first place will be futile & must recoil upon themselves; and because admitting they were to make the lives of the present Steward & housekeeper, so uneasy as to induce them to quit, others would be got to supply their places; and such too, as would be equally, if not more rigid in the exaction of the duties required of servants. In a word, that these Characters are indispensibly necessary to take trouble off the hands of Mrs. Washington and myself & will be supported; any attempts therefore to Counteract them in the line of their duty, whilst they act agreeably to established rules, and their conduct is marked with propriety, will be considered as the strongest evidence they can give of their own unworthiness, & dispositions to be lazy, if not dishonest. A good & faithful Servant is never affraid or unwilling to have his conduct looked into, but the reverse, because the more it is inspected the brighter it shines. With respect to the other matters of a domestic nature mentioned in your letter of the 5th. I shall postpone touching upon them until I see you. We are suffering in these parts by a severe drought. Grass is scarcely worth cutting—and Oats if rain keeps off two or three days longer must be ruined. Corn is bad, but it is too early in the year, to form an opinion of the yield of it. Remember me to Mrs. Lear, — and be assured of the Sincere esteem and friendship of Yr Affecte.

No. 26.

MOUNT VERNON, June 19th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you (from this place) I have recd. your letters of the 12th. immediately from Philadelphia, and those of the 17th. and 24th. of April, after their having taken a trip to the Southward.

I find by Mrs. Washington's letters that Mr. Frauncis is very desirous of introducing Mrs. Read, into the family again; this idea it would be well for him to relinquish at once and forever; for unless there are reasons inducing it, which my imagination cannot furnish, it never will happen. Hercules can ansr. every purpose that Mrs. Read would do, and others which she will not, and sure I am that the difference in the expence between the two will bear no comparison;—besides supposing Mrs. Read to act fairly & honestly (which by the by I do not suppose she is disposed to do if she is not to be the absolute mistress of her own conduct—in a word *uncontroulable* she would not remain in the family a month. She would also encrease the number, and of course, the expence of the *second* Table, which under the administration of Mr. Hyde, I believe was equal to the first (public days excepted). But I hope it is a matter clearly understood by Mr. Frauncis that wine is not to be used at it again, under any pretence whatsoever, for there can be no line drawn if it be once admitted, either as to the quantity or quality, that will be drank at it.

By the last Post the letter of Messrs. Fenwick & Mason, explanatory of the Wine from Charleston, was forwarded to you and I should be glad to hear that the wine was recd. in good order; for no attempts of that house hitherto, seem to have succeded well so far as I am concerned in them. The other Wine to Mr. Jef-

ferson will I presume be divided, and settled for as soon as he shall have returned from his Northern Tour.

Without going into the detail on the several points of your letters I can assure you, that the measures, that you have adopted with respect to Washington—George and Lawrence—my black people & the employment of Mr. Frauncis & Mr. Emmerson as far as they have been communicated, meet my entire approbation,—and I wish you to inculcate strongly upon the white servants of the family (as mentioned in my last) that it will be vain and idle in them to suppose, that by a combination they will avoid their own duties—or can effect the discharge of those, to whom the management of the household business is committed. They must be sensible that they have as high wages as are given to any servants in their respective stations,—that they are as well provided—& perhaps, *better* paid than most—and no extra duties imposed upon them; consequently that if an attempt of this sort is made it will recoil upon themselves. I shall communicate the same sentiments to those who are with me that if they do sin it shall be with their eyes open, and under a knowledge of the Consequences.

As I shall have occasion for a number of Blankets for my people this fall; and as the best time to purchase them I am told is after the Winter's demand is over, I should be glad if you would make a pretty diligent enquiry after them, before I arrive; that I may know *whether* and upon *what* terms I can get supplied. It is probable I may want near two hundred.

The Major desires me to write for half a bushel of Turnip seed of the best kind—viz. a peck of the white Summer and other peck of the red Winter;—but a good Winter and a good Summer Turnip of any other kind, I suppose, will do. It must be sent soon or both will be useless.

I should like to see Mr. Payne's answer to Mr. Burke's Pamphlet; if it is to be had and could be sent off by the Post on Friday it would meet me at George Town on Monday the 27th. where I shall be & from whence I shall proceed;—but on what day is more than I am able to determine until I go there, and shall see what is necessary to be done at that place, towards carrying the law respecting the permanent residence into effect. To do this there are many matters to decide upon; and some of them not a little difficult. It is not very probable therefore that I shall leave George Town before Thursday, but I would not have such dependence placed on this, as to *expect* letters will meet me there on Wednesday evening, especially as it is in distant contemplation (if upon enquiry at George Town it shall be found that the difference in the length of the two roads is not great) to return by the way of Frederick Town, York & Lancaster, to Philadelphia.

Paris has become so lazy, self willed,—and impudent that John (the Coachman) has no sort of Government of him; on the contrary, John says it was a maxim with Paris, to do nothing he was ordered, and every thing he was forbid. This conduct, added to the incapacity of Giles for a Postillion, who I believe will never be able to mount a horse again for that purpose—has induced me to find Paris some other employment than in the Stables. Of course, I shall leave him at home. A boy or two may be necessary—there to assist about the horses, Carriages & Harness—but these (dutch ones) it is possible may be had for their victuals & clothes,—especially if there are large importations from Germany (as some articles in the papers say there will be). I mention the matter now that in case arrivals should happen before I get back, of these kind of people, you may be apprised of my wishes:—low & squat (well made) boys would suit best.

If emigrants are not to be had, there can be no doubt but that some of the dutch servants in the family could easily procure such as are wanted from among the citizens—& perhaps none readier or better than by John himself when he arrives. Remember me to Mrs. Lear—& be assured of the Esteem & Regard

Of Yr. Affecte.

No. 27.

MOUNT VERNON, June 26th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

This is the eve of my departure for George Town, and being Sunday ought to have been a day of rest;—but it is not so with me either from Company or business,—the latter occasioned by a constant succession of Company during the whole of last week:—wch. obliged me to postpone many matters until this day, which ought, and but for that reason, would have been done in the course of it. Such time as I have been able to spend in my study to day has been employed in sorting of the letters & papers which have been received since I left Charleston, part of which I enclose, because my traveling writing desk will not contain them.

I have but little leisure to say much in this letter, if much (as I expect soon to be in Philadelphia) was necessary. I presume all the letters which had been sent to Taylor's Ferry & other places, have got to me—but that you may judge, the following is a list of them—

April 3d. 5th. 10th. 15th. 17th. 24th.
May 1st. 8th. 15th. 22nd. 29th.
June 5th. 12th. 19th.

What my stay at George Town may be, is at present beyond my ken, I go there prepared to proceed, and shall make Hercules take the Waggon box in place of Paris. From that place, so soon as I shall be able to

decide, on the day of my departure from it, & the rout, I will inform you, or Mrs. Washington thereof.

I think it was a duty you owed Mrs. Lear your Mother to meet her at New York for the purpose of accompanying her to Philadelphia. If she is still in that City I request my respects may be presented to her. The last Post came without the Commissions promised in the P. S. to your letter of the 19th. or any letter from you. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear &c. and I am

Yr. Affecte. Servt.

No. 28.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 23d. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 18th. with the Gazettes came duly to hand, and I wish you to forward the latter (such as were sent last) by Wednesday's and Friday's Post; in which case they will arrive in Alexandria, on Mondays and Fridays when I shall have a messenger at the Post-Office in readiness to receive them. Accompany the papers with occurrencies worthy of communication, if any there be uncontained in them.

Let Mr. Page know that it shall depend upon his carriage's being at George Town by Noon, on Tuesday the 18th. of Octr. that I may be able to proceed Philadelphia-wards the same day. Mrs. Washington, the children and the servants, will be there in readiness for that purpose.

Favored with fine weather we had a pleasant Journey home, and arrived safe on Tuesday last. Mrs Stuart and her family were all here and well, and join us in best wishes to you Mrs. Lear & Major Jackson.

Sincererely & affectionately,

I am Yrs.

P. S.

Christopher and the Black Smith got home before

us. The latter is trying his hand at some Mill work for Evans, but I have had no apportunity *yet* of deciding upon his skill.

Pray measure the height of the walls of the house you are in, from the Cornice at the shingling of the roof to the pavement, and give it to me in the first letter you may write to me after the rect. of this.

No. 29.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 26th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you I have recd. your two letters of the 21st. Inst.—one dated in the morning, and the other in the evening of that day.

What appeared to *you* to be the object of the formal enquiries of Mr. Powell and the Mayor of the City—in their late interrogations? Did they mean to convict Mr. Gallatine of mis-representation—or me of an improper interference in the building of a House for the President of the United States? If the first Mr. Gallatine may speak for himself;—if the latter I have no scruple in declaring to those Gentlemen or to any others, that no one has a right to publish sentiments *as mine* that were never uttered, or conceived *by me;* especially too after the reverse had been explicitly declared—to Mr. Fisher, at his own request which was made as he *professed* to answer a particular purpose. Previous to the above communication to Mr. Fisher, I do not recollect that I ever expressed a sentiment respecting the Public building. To a Pennsylvanian or one wishing to promote the measure, I am certain I never did;—but *afterwards* when I found my want of recommendation & consequent dissatisfaction, was adduced as argument to support the measure, I was inclined that the following truth should be known, first that I never had, since I

got rid of the workmen expressed my dissatisfaction with my accomodations. Secondly, that as I have already made *two* expensive removals, and had not long to remain in Office, I would not make a third, unless I was compelled to do it. And thirdly, under these circumstances, and a thorough conviction that the proposed building might be delayed and still erected in time for my successor. It was candid and fair to make these sentiments known—especially as they were accompanied with a pointed declaration that it was *only* as the building regarded *myself personally* that they were communicated, having no desire to intermeddle in the politics of the State.

I am glad you stated the matter in writing to Mr. Powell. Sentiments and communications expressed in that manner, cannot be misconceived, or misrepresented, from the want of recollection. I hope there is no intention of adding near 50 Pr. Cent to the rent of the house I occupy; for I *well* remember my desiring you to inform the Committee that I *must* and *would* know upon what terms I was to Inhabit the House and yt. you told me they had fixed the Rent at 500£ Pr. Annum.

If you have not already made a purchase of Blankets, I wish you to suspend doing it untill you hear from me again. I am about to send this day to Alexandria, where it is said large importations of this article have been made,—to learn the qualities & price of the dutch Blanketing. Sitgreaves' memo. is not explicit enough to enable me to judge of the size or quality of his—the only sort of them which are applicable to my use, are inserted thus,—"Striped Duffells 115/. to 180/. Pr. "Piece of 15 Blankets."—This brings the lowest of these to 9/. & the highest to 12/. each—which is high, supposing them of the largest size, & of the first quality. If you will mention in your next the length & breadth

of the different sizes & whether they are of the best quality, I shall be better able to decide.

I do not recollect whether I mentioned to you in my last, that the Major got home a day or two before us. He is much better than he was, but not yet free from the pain in his breast & Cough.

Mrs. Washington and all the family (which at present is pretty numerous) join me in best wishes for yourself Mrs. Lear, Majr. Jackson & the child.

I am, Dear Sir

Your sincere friend &

Affece. Servt.

No. 30.

MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 2d. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you which I think was written on this day week, I have recd. your letters of the 25th. & 27th. Ulto.

I am not yet able to speak decisively with respect to the Blankets. Many have arrived, but not yet opened in Alexandria. Mr. Wilson who has imported ot them largely, at from 56/. to 75/. Sterlg Pr Piece of 15 Blankets, has offered them to me at 70 P. Ct. but as he cannot before they are opened, give the size, or quality, it is impossible to say whether they will come cheap or dear. I shall ascertain this matter before Friday next, and will then write to you on the subject again.

Letters and Papers from you by the Posts on Wednesdays & Fridays will come to me as soon those which may be forwarded on Mondays, as I do not send to the office on Wednesdays, which is the day the mail arrives there that leaves Philadelphia on Monday. Those

which leave that place on Wednesday come in on Friday, & the Friday's mail arrives on Monday and these are the days I shall send up for letters &c.

I send two French letters to be translated, and forwarded to me.

It is a little singular when considered on the score of candor, that Mr. P— should suffer Mr. S— to assert what he did in the S—without contradicting him;— but the views and conduct of the City influence stands in need of no developement in my mind. Nor have I a much higher opinion of the candor of Mr. F—. He is very welcome however, to the copy of the letter you wrote Mr. P— and with which you furnished him, as I wish the sentiments therein expressed to be *generally* known, since the matter has been introduced into the Legislature of the State, and so unfairly stated as it appears to have been done by *both* parties. The details you have given me of this matter was very proper, and I am glad you furnished me with them. It is quite right that I should be made acquainted with these things.

I am very well satisfied with the determinations of the Comee. respecting the Rent, and the time of its commencing, and am glad of your expression to that effect.

How does the engraving of the Federal City advance? Send me some of the first that are struck off and let the others be disposed of as was agreed on. If you should learn with certainty that the Minister of France is coming to this place advise me of it, and when he sets out.

All the family here are well except the Majr. who seems to be in a poor way, and join me in best wishes for you & yours & for Majr. Jackson. I am sincerely and affectionately

Yrs.

No. 31.

MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 7th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 30th. Ulto. came duly to hand with the enclosures.

I have had samples of the Alexandria Blankets sent me—the quality of them is not good, inferior to those I had from Watson, & far very far indeed inferior to those I used to import myself. The prices, length, & breadth of three kinds are enclosed.

Messrs. Sitgreaves' give no length to their Blankets and if Colo. Biddle has been accurate in his accounts, & I understand him, the Blankets he has had offered to him, however good in other respects, are intolerably narrow. Under this view of the matter I am perplexed. I by no means like the prices or quality of those Blankets in Alexandria, and scarcely know what judgment to form of those in Philadelphia, but if whilst hesitating between the two I should miss both, it would be bad indeed, as my people would in that case be in great distress the ensuing Winter. Upon the whole I have resolved to refer the matter once more to you with the Alexandria prices & sizes (the quality you can only form an opinion of from the description I have already given) of the Blankets in that place, and to request that you & Colo. Biddle will endeavour to procure me the quantity wanting—viz—200; if upon comparison you shall conceive I may be benefitted thereby. One hundred of the largest size & best quality is required;—the other hundred may be of the middle size but good in quality. But in truth if I am to form an opinion of the sizes by the accts. sent, the largest of them scarcely comes up to my ideas of a middle sized Blanket. At all events let me know by the Wednesday's Post after you re-

ceive this (and which will reach me only the day before I leave home) what I have to trust to, as I should regret a disappointment exceedingly.

I recollect asking you if among my Pamphlets you had seen the journal of my tour to the French on Labeauf in the Year 1753? I understood you no; but Mrs. Washington thinks you said yes. I have searched in vain for it here. Pray decide this point between us.

As I shall have but little time between my return to Philadelphia and the meeting of Congress, to arrange matters for the Communications I shall have to make at the opening of the Sessions—I desire that *you* will (for my time is so much occupied here by Company & the necessary attention to my domestic concerns, as not to allow me time to do it) examine my speeches at the opening of the three last Sessions of Congress and compare the several matters recommended in them with the Laws that have passed, noting the things recommended and not acted upon *at all*—as also the measures recommended and taken up by Congress but *not finished;*—such as the Militia Law &ca. that I may, by seeing the state of the business, decide on the propriety (as I am about to meet a new House of Representatives) of bringing the same matters before Congress again. It will do if this enquiry is completed against my arrival,—and I pray you to be correct in it. The Journals, or Mr. Beckley can inform you of these cases which have been taken up, but never finished; & I wish you to ask at the Secretary of State's office what has been the result of the enquries which have issued from thence, in consequence of the resolve of Congress, to ascertain the quantity & state of the Lands ceded by No. Carolina.

I ought, when speaking of the Blankets, to have desired if you make the purchase in Philadelphia to forward them by the first vessel which is bound to Alexan-

dria, as my negroes are all teazing me for them, & the season will soon make them necessary

What progress does Mr. West make? and has he learnt to write with more facility and ease than when I left him?

Mrs. Washington requests you to get her six pieces of Ginghams according to the enclosed memam. and to send them along with the Blankets. She and all here join in best wishes for you &ca.—And I am ever Yr. Affte. frd. &c.

No. 32.

Mount Vernon, Octr. 10th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 2d. & 5th. came to my hands on Saturday morning. Yesterday I allotted to acknowledge the receipt of them,—and to write several letters, but Company coming in before breakfast, & from thence till dinner, and early succession again to day—I can do no more than say they came duly to hand, and approve of your getting the Rooms (mentioned in your letter of the 2d.) Painted. The passage above wants it exceedingly; especially in & about the cross-passages, & I hope will receive a Coat.

I am Yrs. Affectionately

No. 33

Mount Vernon, Octr. 14th. 1791.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 9th. was forwarded to me, yesterday morning by the Post master in Alexandria (having sent no person to that place the evening before).

I am glad of the intimations given of the intentions of the Minister of France—and pleased tho' distressed

at the same time at the information, that the 24th. Inst. is the day fixed on for the meeting of Congress. I had no more Idea of this than I had of its being dooms day. Supposing the 31st. to be the day, I meant to have spent Monday and possibly Tuesday at George Town, & then to have proceeded leisurely on; but as the case is I shall endeavour to reach Bladensburg *at least* the first night (that is Monday) and delay no time on the Road afterwards that can be avoided, as I shall have scarce any time to prepare my Communications for the openg. of the Session on the 24th. if there should be punctuality in the Members.

This unexpected event makes it more essentially necessary, to look without delay and with accuracy into the Speeches & Laws (at the past Sessions) agreeably to my former directions, that among other matters they may be considered of when I arrive. If any thing else should have occurred to you, fit for recommendation or communication in the Speech, note it, that in case it should not be among my memorandams it may be ready for consideration.

There is a mystery attending the engravg. of the Federal City which I do not comprehend. It appears some-what singular that the incorrectness of the plan should not have been discovered till now, when Major L'Enfant was detained many days in Philadelphia to prepare & fit it for the purpose.

If the memorial of Messrs. Friol Roux & Co. has not already been sent it may await my arrival in Philadelphia, as I shall have no leisure to give it a consideration, until after my communications have been prepared for Congress. Being much hurried I have only time to wish you and Mrs. Lear well, & to assure you of the sincere esteem and regard of

Yrs. Affectly

No. 34.

MOUNT VERNON, July 30th. 1792.

Dear Sir,

Your letter from New York came duly to hand, and I was glad to find you had got that far in safety. I wish the remainder of your journey may prove equally pleasant & prosperous. My journey was not of this sort, for after I had parted with the Coach Horses I was plagued with those that succeeded them, the following day;—and the sick mare by a dose of Physic which had been administered the night I reached Chester, was so weakened, and failed so much that she was unable to carry Austin any farther than Susquehanna,—from thence she was led to Hartford and left, and two days afterwards gave up the ghost.

I found the face of the Country here and on the road this side of Baltimore, much very much indeed parched by a severe drought and the corn in miserable plight;—but the day & night we reached home, there fell a most delightful & refreshing rain, and the weather since has been as seasonable as the most sanguine farmer could wish, and if continued to us may make our Indian Corn crop midling—great it is hardly possible to be—so much was it in arrears when the rains set in.

Great complaints were heard of the Hessian fly, and of the rust or mildew, as I traveled on, and in some places I believe the damage has been great, but I conceive more is said than ought to be on this subject;—and that the Crop, upon the whole, will be abundant of Wheat:—mine in quantity (and the quality is good) will I expect greatly exceed any I have made these several Years past.

I found at George Town many well conceived, & ingenious plans for the Public buildings in the New City:—It was a pleasure indeed to find in an infant Country, such a display of architectural abilities. The

plan of Mr. Hoben who was introduced to me by Doctr. Tucker, from Charleston, and who appears to be a very judicious man, was made choice of for the President's House, and the commissioners have agreed with him to superintend the building of it, and that of the Capitol also, if they should hereafter be disposed to put both under one management. He has been engaged in some of the first buildings in Dublin—appears a master workman and has a great many Lands of his own. He has laid out the foundation wch. is now digging, and will be back in a month to enter heartily upon the work. The plan for the Capitol was not fixed on when I left George Town—two or three very elegant ones (among a great many others of less merit) had been presented but the draughts-men not being there, a postponement became necessary to receive explanation. The bridge will be accomplished (it is said) by the time specified in the contract, and everything that could be put in motion before the plans for the public Buildings were fixed on, is in as much forwardness as could be expected—& will now I have no doubt advance rapidly.

As you did not mention having spoken to Mr. Morris about the house, I am under some apprehension that you omitted doing it, which will be unlucky. Give me an acct. of what I suggested to you, as a matter for indirect inquiry. All here are well, except the Majr. whose situation I think unpromising & precarious, growing worse—they all join me in best wishes for Mrs. Lear Yourself & the child.

I am Dear Sir

Yr. Affece. friend

No. 35.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 21st. 1792.

Dear Sir,

I have written but one letter to you since I came to

this place—I was on the point of writing a second,—when yours of the 5th. of August came to my hands, informing me of your intention of leaving Portsmouth about the first of this month and expectation of reaching Philadelphia (if no unforseen delays happened) the 20th.—this information arrested my intention, as it was uncertain at what place to direct to you—or, that the letter would reach your hands, before it reverberated back to that City.

I feel myself much obliged by the information contained in your letters of the 21st. of July and 5th. of August, but as I expect soon to see you shall only take notice of that part of it which respects a tutor for a few boys, and my ardent wish that you may have been able to succeed in your expectation of getting one; I am more and more persuaded of the utility of the measure, and that without it the loss to Washington will be irreparable.

I have nothing agreeable of a domestic nature to relate, and I go not abroad to collect information of any other kind. Poor George! He is, I believe not far from that place from whence no traveller returns. He is but the shadow of what he was; he has not been out of his room and scarcely from his bed these six weeks. At times he has intervals of ease which flatter a little, but I have little hope of his surviving the winter. This adds not a little to my distress and perplexity on a subject you are already acquainted with—but no more of this at least for the present.

My family and this part of the Country are more sickly than they have been since the recollection of the oldest of us,—first with the flux (but that did not prevail in my family) and next with intermittant & remittant fevers. All the whites of it however have kept up except William whose fever is by an act of his own imprudence.

Not knowing what delays you may have met with upon the Road, I have directed Mr. Francis in a letter of this date to engage Mr. Page's Coach to be here to accommodate our journey to Philadelphia, for which place I expect to set out about the 8th. though I may not arrive in that city before the 13th. or 14th. of Octr. The stage however is to be at this place on the 7th. at night. If you should be in Philadelphia by the time this letter reaches it, I shall rely on your usual punctuality and expedition to effect this. If the Carriage should not be here before the 8th. the case will not be altered, as I do not expect Mrs. Washington will leave this place before the 9th. The sale may require my remaining in George Town one day.

If this letter should find you in Philadelphia, let me know the result of your application to Mr. Page, by the first Post after it is received. Our united & best wishes are offered for yourself Mrs. Lear & the child, and with sincere & affectionate regard—I am Always Yr. friend

P.S.

If Mr. Page cannot send his Carriage some other equally convenient if to be had must be sent for our accommodation, as it is thereon we depend.

No. 36. MOUNT VERNON, Octr. 1st. 1792.

Dear Sir,

Expecting this letter will find you in Philadelphia, I wish you would begin in time to compare *all* my speeches in Congress with the subsequent Acts of that body, that I may see what parts of them have passed altogether unnoticed, or which have been only partially noticed; thereby enabling me to judge whether any & what parts of them should be brought forward again. It is my request also that you would note every thing, that may occur to you as fit subjects of infor-

mation, or for recommendation at the opening of the Session,—and such other matters as result from the laws, with wch. it is proper to make the Legislature or the Senate acquainted. I want to have all the materials collected for my communications previous to my arrival that when the whole are before me I may select and digest into order, such as will be proper for my Speech.

It is my present intention to commence my journey to Philadelphia on this day week, & to spend that and part of the following day in George Town, but whether I shall be able to do it, is not absolutely certain, as yet. William & Richard have both been confined to their rooms and mostly to their beds, for ten or 12 days, with intermittant fever, which never before yesterday was moderate enough to admit the Bark, which makes it doubtful at this moment whether they will be in condition to undertake the journey, if they keep well, and a return of the fever I am sure will prevent it. As to poor George, I shall say nothing, his fate is unquestionably fixed and Fanny's from present appearances, is very unpromising, probably in terminating in the same disorder. These occurrencies throw my private affairs into considerable embarrassment;—But as they especially the Major is not likely to get better, & if they do will spend the winter at her father's, I must leave them in it as there is no remedy at present.

The light house at Cape Henry in this State will soon want a keeper, & if my memory serves me many have offered. Pray examine their characters & have them ready to be decided on by the time I arrive.

Mrs. Washington went up this morning to bid Mrs. Stuart (who has lately added a son to the family) farewell. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lear yourself & the child.—And I am dear Sir

Your Sincere friend and
Affecte. Servt.

I do hereby certify, that I have examined the Accounts kept by Mr. Tobias Lear, on my behalf from the Commencement of my Administration of the Government of the United States down to the 31st. day of December, One Thousand Seven hundred & ninety two—as will appear by the Journal & Ledger which contain them—and that I am perfectly well satisfied with the clearness & justness of them.

Given under my hand in the City
of Philadelphia this 25th. day
of March, 1793.

No. 37.

BALTIMORE, March 30th. 1793.

Dear Sir,

Late this afternoon and in Company I recd. your letter of yesterday's date. Proposing to set out early in the morning & the trifling incidents which happened to occur on the road being related in the enclosed letter I shall conclude with best wishes for yourself Mrs. Lear and the Child—and assurances of being your sincere friend and

Affectionate Servant

No. 38.

MOUNT VERNON, April 5th. 1793.

Dear Sir,

From Baltimore I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 29th. Ulto.,—as I am now about to do that of the 1st. Inst. from hence.

I had no idea of your obtaining money from Mr. De Barth, if it was ever more abundant than you represented it to be—nor do I believe he had any expectation at the time, we bargained to make the payment stipulated. It was I am satisfied a speculation on his part—

depending upon the Chapter of accidents to comply with. Such was the opinion of others at the time—and such has his conduct evinced since. The disappointmt. to me is great as I wanted to apply the money to particular uses. Public securities (but of these I dare say he is as scarse as he is of Cash) would do.

Let me know in your next, after the rect. of this what are the *real* selling prices of flour in Philadelphia, and the opinion of the *knowing ones* whether the probability is that it will rise—fall—or remain where it is for any time. In this State it has fallen, but the scarcity, of Cash; & War, or the probability of one between France & G. Britain are assigned as the Causes, together with the want of Vessels to export the produce of the Country.

Offer my best wishes to Mrs. Lear and our little friend Lincoln, and believe me to be—as I really am

Your Sincere friend &
Affecte. Servt.

No. 39.

Mount Vernon, April 8th. 1793.

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you from this place your letter of the 3d. Inst. has been recd.—transmitting Colo. Cannon's Rental,—and Mr. De Barth's profession of inability to discharge his Bond. The latter seems to be a more candid account, than the former, but with both I must be satisfied—presuming I shall never obtain better from either.

Before you say anything to Mr. C— with respect to the lands which Mr. De Barth had of me, & is willing to relinquish, I beg you to have some conversation with the Attorney General, on the subject he mentioned to me respecting Mr. C— which I did not very clearly un-

derstand at the time, & know less of it now. It seemed to squint (if I recollect rightly) at a sort of Speculation which might implicate the seller; but in what manner I know not. As I do not however mean to place it in the power of malice itself to charge me with any agency in measures that can even be tortured into impropriety on this head, I wish the above enquiry to be previously made.

If it is not too late, I mean if the Assembly of Pennsylvania has not risen, and the opportunity lost—I wish you would enquire of Mr. Gallitan, and others from the Western Country, into whose hands I could, to advantage, entrust the management of my business in the Counties of Fayette & Washington:—for I am sure it will not do to leave it in the hands of Colo. Cannon; who if nothing else is against him, is too dependent for his election as representative of the latter County to fix my rents at a just medium, or to collect them in a manner he ought to do, least his popularity should be affected by it. And if the Rents are liable to be applied (when under leases for 5 years, and after farms have been settled 12 or 15 years) towards repairs and improvements, I may bid adieu to any prospect of profit from them; as nothing can be easier than to balance the acct. by fence rails & such other like improvements; which every man who ever had a farm and expected to make any thing on it, always did, & for their own sakes ever will be obliged to provide for the security of their Crops at their own expence. It is usual when a Tenant goes on a *new place* and has *every* thing to provide, to allow him one, two & sometimes (according to situation & circumstances) three years Rent free;—but I never heard before of a continuance of it on farms, so long settled as I have mentioned, & which have always been in occupation. Nor is it to be supposed that a tenant will ever do anything at his

own expence, if by agreement he can charge it, to the account of the Land Lord.

As the will of my deceased Nephew will not be proved at next Court for this County, I shall not (unless obliged to wait for Mr. Robert Lewis, who has written me that he shall be here with some Rents & to settle some other business with me) remain here till Monday the 15th.—but as I shall (unless advices from Piladelphia, or other occurrencies unknown to me at present render it inconvenient) go by the way I had contemplated to come, if the Roads would have permitted it—that is—by Frederick Town in Maryland—Carlisle—Harrisburgh, the upper Canal—Reading & the lower Canal, it is not in my power at this time to name the day when it is probable I shall be in Philadelphia,—but at any rate if no accident happens; nor my horses fail me—it will be by the 25th. of the month at farthest.

Fanny Washington thanks you for your friendly remembrance of her, and joins me in best wishes for yourself—Mrs. Lear & Lincoln—I am always & Sincerely

Yr. Affectionate friend

No. 40.

MOUNT VERNON, April 12th. 1793.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 8th., but as I am on the eve of my return to Philadelphia, and have many letters to write, I shall do little more than acknowledge the receipt of it. The advices which I may receive by the Post to-night, will decide whether I shall proceed by the direct rout—or by the one I intended to have come.

The enclosed from the Attorney General I return to him through your hands, that an account and Copy of

it may be taken before you give it to him, wch. should be as soon as convenient.

I always receive the information you convey, and your sentiments upon political or other subjects with pleasure—no apology therefore was necessary for these offered in your letter of the above date. I was sorry to learn by a letter from Mrs. Washingn. that little Lincoln has been unwell. I hope he is quite recovered. My best wishes attend him,—Mrs. Lear—& yourself and I am always—Your sincere friend & Affecte. Servant

No. 41.

PHILADELPHIA, June 21st. 1793.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 17th. came by the Post of yesterday—and as by the purport of it, there is a probability, that this letter may find you either at George Town, or Mount Vernon, I write it for the purpose of declaring, that your going to the latter place is viewed by me as a very kind & friendly act. The account given of Mr. Whiting by Doctr. Craik, is a very distressing one, not only as it respects the poor fellow himself,—but on acct. of the effect it must have on my business, present and to come; during this Year at least.

Getting an acct. from him (if his situation will enable him to give it) of the monies received and payed, and such as may be due, to and from me, is of importance,—a general view given by him of other matters is more to be wished than expected. I shall bring with me the accts. he rendered to Mr. Dandridge when I was last at Mount Vernon.

If Mr. Clarke fulfills his engagement (and he says he will tho' I think it questionable) I shall, if no business more than I am apprised of at present intervenes to

prevent it, set out on my journey on Monday; and expect to be at George Town, if not at Mount Vernon, on Thursday evening. This being the case & as I shall see you at one or the other of those places, or must meet you on the road, I shall only add that with much truth and friendship I am Dr. Sir Yr. Affecte.

P. S.

Mrs. Lear & Lincoln are perfectly well.

No. 42.

MOUNT VERNON, Septr. 25th, 1793.

My dear Sir,

I have not written to you since we parted, but had just sat down to do it when your letter of the 13th. inst. was brought to me from the Post Office Alexandria.

It gave Mrs. Washington, myself, and all who knew him sincere pleasure to hear that our little favourite had arrived safe and was in good health at Portsmouth —we sincerely wish him a long continuance of the latter—that he may be always as charming and promising as he now is—that he may live to be a comfort and blessing to you—and an ornament to his Country. As a token of my affection for him, I send him a ticket in the lottery that's now drawing in the Federal City; & if it should be his fortune to draw the Hotel, it will add to the pleasure I feel in giving it.

We remained in Philadelphia until the 10th. inst. It was my wish to have stayed there longer, but as Mrs. Washington was unwilling to leave me amidst the malignant fever which prevailed, I could not think of hazarding her and the children any longer by my remaining in the City. The house in which we lived, being in a manner blockaded by the disorder, which was becoming every day more and more fatal. I therefore came off with them on the above day, and arrived at

this place the 14th. without encountering the least accident on the Road.

You will learn from Mr. Greenleaf that he has dipped deeply in the concerns of the Federal City; advantageously I think for himself—and I am pleased with it, on public ground also, as it may give facility to the operations at that place, at the same time that it is embarkg. him in a measure which, although it cannot well fail under any circumstances that are likely to happen, may be considerably promoted by men of spirit with large Capitals. He can so much better than I detail his engagements & the situation of things in and about the City, that I shall not attempt to do it at present.

Mrs. Washington having decided to let Nelly Custis have her Watch and Chain, is disposed to receive substitutes in lieu thereof at about Twenty five guineas price, and leaves the choice of them to you. The plainness of the Watch &c. will be no objection. One hundred and twenty Dollars, in Bank Notes are enclosed for the purchase of them.

If it should be convenient, and perfectly safe for you to engage for me, on reasonable terms a complete Black Smith, you would oblige me by doing so. As there are laws in England prohibiting such engagements under severe penalties, and such may exist in other Countries, you will understand me clearly that for no consideration whatsoever would I have you run the smallest risk of encountering them—you know full well what kind of a smith would suit my purposes, it is unnecessary therefore for me to be particular on this head. He must however have a character on which you can rely, not only as a complete workman for a farm, but as an honest, sober and industrious man. If he comes on wages they must be moderate; & with or without wages, he must be bound to serve me three years—four would be better

TOBIAS LEAR

From a miniature owned by Mrs. Eyre.

Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind recollection of her request respecting Lincoln, and desires me to assure you of her sincere love for him—in which I join, & of her friendship & regard for you. In what ever place you may be, or in whatever walk of life you may move, my best wishes will attend you,—for I am & always shall be—Yr. Sincere friend & Affectr. Servt.

P. S.

I have just recd. a letter from the Earl of Buchan in which he says my letter intended to accompany the Portrait had got safe to his hands, but that he had seen nor heard nothing of the Picture. If you should while in New York see the painter of it, be so good as to mention this circumstance to him, and inquire into the cause of the failure.

The District Attorney of New Hampshire, has sent his resignation. I am entirely unacquainted with the Characters in that line, in that State, and would thank you to name the person whom you think best qualified to succeed Mr. Sherburne & most likely to give general satisfaction.

No. 43.

PHILADELPHIA, 6th. May 1794.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 26th. of Jany. with a Post Script of the 30th. of the same month, by Capt. Truxton and another of the 12th. of Feby. by a vessel to New York I have safely recd. But neither the one from Glasgow (with the box) nor the other by the Peggy, refered to in the above letters, are yet come to hand.

The Watch and Portrait of the Earl of Buchan, were recd. in very good order. The first pleases, and for your attention to it, Mrs. Washington prays you to ac-

cept her thanks. The extra Cost, together with the prices of the other articles from Glasgow and London, shall be paid so soon as I can find a person disposed to receive the amount, & this I shall know probably, when I converse, with Mr. Dalton; who, I believe, is on a visit to the Federal City; as he proposed to set out for it on Monday last.

The reception you met with from the Earl of Buchan and Sir John Sinclair, gives me sincere pleasure, and I am glad to find they have introduced you to characters, which may not only contribute to your present gratifications, but which in the Revolution of events, may be of service in a future walk of life, without a possible disservice, that results not from imprudence; against which your own good sence will always secure you.

I am much obliged to you for the several communications in your letters which have come to hand. I place great reliance on them. The opportunities you derive from mixing with people in different walks—high and low—of different descriptions, and of different political Sentiments, must have afforded you, an extensive range for observation and Comparison,—more so by far than could fall to the lot of a stationary Character, who is always revolving in a particular Circle.

I am equally well pleased to hear that the concerns, in which you are more immediately interested are in as promising a train as the peculiarly disturbed state of matters in Europe would allow you to expect. I hope they will continue, and that your plans may be accomplished to the fullest extent of your wishes.

Mr. Pearce my present manager at Mount Vernon, has been directed to send for your fruit Trees the moment he hears of the Peggy's arrival at George Town; and my Gardner is instructed to take particular care

of them until they are otherwise disposed of by you; but as the Vessel had not arrived the 29th. Ulto. (when I heard from Mr. Pearce) there is much reason to fear they will come too late, as a mild and placid March and pleasant April (except the first days of it) have caused a most luxuriant vegetation this Spring with us from North-to-South.

Not knowing where you may be, when this letter shall have reached London,—nor the hazzard it may run in following you, if you should have left that Metropolis, I shall do little more than *touch* political subjects. To tell you that the order of his Britanic Majesty in Council of the 8th. of June last, respecting neutral Vessels had given much discontent to the United States—and that, that of the 6th. of November, and its results, had thrown them into a flame, will hardly be news to you when you shall have recd. this letter. The subsequent order of the 8th. of Jany. has in a degree allayed the violence of the heat, but will by no means satisfy them, without reparation for the Spoilations of our Trade & the injuries we sustain for the non-performance of the Treaty of Peace.

To effect these, if possibly by temperate means, by fair & firm negociation, an Envoy extraordinary is appointed, & will, I expect sail in a few days. Mr. Jay is chosen for this mission—Mr. John Trumbull goes as his private Secretary.

Many measures have been moved in Congress in consequence of the above mentioned orders of the British Cabinet. Some have passed into Acts and others are yet pending. Those which have become Laws are, one for fortifying our principal Sea Ports (which is now in vigorous execution) and another for raising an additional corps of 800 artillery men, for the defence of them, & for other purposes. The Bills which are pending are to complete our present Military

establishment,—to raise an army of 25,000 men in addition thereto,—and to organize—put in training—and to hold in readiness at a minute's warning, a Select Corps of 80,000 militia. Of the passing of the first & last of these no doubt seems to be entertained on either side of the House,—but those who are fearful of what they call a standing army, will give all the opposition they can to the other. The result therefore none will predict, in the present stage of the business.

Besides these a Bill passed the house of Representatives, by a large majority, founded on the following preamble & resolution "whereas the injuries which "have been suffered, and may be suffered by the "United States from violations committed by Great "Britain, on their neutral rights & Commercial interests, "as well as from her failure to execute the 7th. article "of the treaty of Peace render it expedient for the inter- "est of the United States, that the Commercial inter- "course between the two Countries should not continue "to be carried on in the extent at present allowed"—

"Resolved, that from and after the first day of "November next all commercial intercourse between "the Citizens of the United States, and the Subjects of "the King of Great Britain, or the Citizens or Subjects "of any other nation, so far as the same respects articles "of the growth or manufacture of G. Britain or Ireland "shall be prohibited."

This measure was arrested in the Senate at the third reading, by the Casting vote of the Vice President—not, as it is said and generally believed, from a disinclination, to the ulterior expediency of the measure, but from a desire to try the effect of negociation previous thereto.

Sequestration of British property (not including that in the funds) and other expedients of a similar kind have been agitated in the house of Representatives, but seem I think to be talked off the Stage.

The Packet from Mr. Bartrand to Mr. Jefferson was forwarded by the first post after it reached my hands. Mr. Jefferson resigned the Office of Secretary of State the first of Jany.—and was succeeded by the late Attorney General Mr. Randolph, whose place of Attorney General is filled by Judge Bradford, of this State (Pennsylva.)

Enclosed I give you the trouble of receiving the Copy of a letter which I wrote to Mr. Arthur Young, by Mr. William Morris on the 12th. of December last. At the time that letter was written I had no knowledge of Mr. Young's late appointment, as Secretary of the National board of Agriculture, nor of the change of his political sentiments. It is not improbable but that he has already, or will, make you acquainted, with the purport of the above letter. Be this however as it may, my inducement to send you a Copy of it is, that if the case should be otherwise— if there appears to be any repugnance on his part to Comply with my wishes,—and a *fair* occasion should occur of mentioning the matter in the course of your peregrinations, through England—Scotland—or elsewhere, & you see no impropriety from Circumstances or your view of the subject at the moment I should be glad if you were to do it;—my wish further is to dispose of the Lands, I have had restored to me, by Mr. de Barth;—and in short my settled lands in the Western Part of this State, in the Counties of Fayette & Washington. I have raised the price of my lands on the Ohio and great Kanhawa to twenty Shillings Virga. Currency P. Acre, — the Tract in Fayette (about 1700 acres) to 40,—and that in Washington to 30 Shillings Pr. Acre, Pennsylvania Currency, 3,000 Acs.

I have no scruple to disclose to you, that my motives to these sales (as hath been in part expressed to Mr. Young) are to reduce my income be it more or less to

specialties; that the remainder of my days, may thereby, be more tranquil and free from cares;—and that I may be enabled (knowing precisely what my dependence is) to do as much good with it as the resource will admit—for altho' in the estimation of the world, I possess a good and clear estate, yet so unproductive is it, that I am oftentimes ashamed to refuse aids which I cannot afford, unless I was to sell part of it, to answer the purpose. Besides these I have another motive which makes me earnestly wish for these things—it is indeed more powerful than all the rest—namely to liberate a certain species of property which I possess very repugnantly to my own feelings; but which imperious necessity compels, and until I can substitute some other expedient, by which expences, not in my power to avoid (however well disposed I may be to do it) can be defrayed.

You are so well acquainted with the situation and quality of the Lands which are here mentioned for sale, that is almost unnecessary for me to go more into detail respecting them with you—those however on the Ohio, between the mouths of the little and great Kanhawa are in three tracts, the first containing 2314 Acres,—laying on the Banks of the River, about 12 miles below Mariatte—the 2d.—2448 acres still lower down (being the 4th. large bottom on the East side of the River)—and the 3d. on the same side, opposite the great bend in the River, containg. 4395 acres, all of which are of the first quality. The lands on the great Kanhawa are in no respect inferior. They are contained in four Patents;—the first beginning within two miles of the mouth of that River & contains 10,990 Acres of the richest bottom, stretching 17 or 18 miles along the River. The next of 7276 Acres, is a little above the last on the opposite side of the River, & the other two are still higher up at the mouth of, and on

Coal River; both are of the first quality & containing together abt. 5,000 Acres.

Although it is my wish to convert these Lands into cash on the terms and for the purposes mentioned, yet for reasons which will readily occur to you, I would not hawk them about as some do, if they were never to be sold.

I wish most sincerely that some inducement could be offered Professor Anderson which would bring him to this Country. His labours are certainly ingenious, and worthy encouragement, but I fear it will not be in my power to avail these States of them. His communications however are under consideration.

Often, through the medium of Mr. Langdon, we hear of your son Lincoln, and with pleasure, that he continues to be the healthy and sprightly child he formerly was. He declared if his ticket should turn up a prize, he would go and live in the Federal City. He did not consider, poor little fellow, that some of the prizes would hardly build him a baby house nor foresee that one of these small tickets would be his lot, having drawn no more than ten dollars.

Mr. Bl——t's Agency in this lottery will it is feared be more productive of thorns than roses;—the matter is not yet wound up,—and the Commissioners appear to be uneasy. In all other respects matters as far as the accts. of them have come to my knowledge, are going on well.

My public avocations, will not at any rate admit of more than a *flying* trip to Mount Vernon for a few days, this summer:—This not suiting Mrs. Washington, I have taken a house in Germantown, to avoid the heat of this City, in the months of July and August—she, Nelly—and the rest of the family, unite with me in every good wish for your health prosperity and safe

return; than whom none you may be assured offers them with more sincerity.

With Affection & regard I am &
Always shall be——Yours.

No. 44.

GERMAN TOWN, August 28th. 1794.

My dear Sir,

It gave me very sincere pleasure to find by your letter of the 22d. inst. (which by the by—did not come to my hands 'till the evening of the 26th. not time enough to acknowledge the receipt of it by the Post of next day) that you had arrived in good health at George Town, with a valuable Cargo, of Goods, and that you had arranged your business to your satisfaction in England, Scotland, & Holland. When you shall have arranged your business at George Town, and business or inclination may turn your face towards the Eastwards, it will be unnecessary to add that to see you would make this family happy; and with a little roughing on your part, you could be accommodated therein.

If you have no accts. later I have the pleasure to tell you, that by a letter from your good mother to Mrs. Washington, that she and little Lincoln were perfectly well on the 11th. of this month,—and by her acct. he continued to be the fine sprightly child you left him.

The enclosed though out of season *now* will serve to show that your letters did not sleep with me in silence. It went by Mr. Jay, and was returned by him with the following papagraph, or letter, dated—
London, 23d. June.

"On Sunday the 15th. of this month I arrived here. "The next day I made enquiries for Mr. Lear, and was "informed that he had gone to Liverpool to embark for

"America. I asked whether it was probable, that "letters sent by the Post would find him still there— "the answer was that it was highly *im*probable. Under "these circumstances, and well knowing the jealous "attention now paid to letters passing thro' the Post "Office, I thought it most advisable to forbear making "the experiment, and to return that letter to you."

The Copy of my letter to Mr. Young from whom I have recd. no acknowledgment, will be of no other use to you now, than to show what were and still are my wishes; that if any inquiries after, for back lands should be made in your presence, you might be enabled to bring mine into view. The plan with respect to my Mount Vernon Estate I have no idea could be carried into effect in this Country.

I had it in contemplation to visit that place about the last of September or beginning of Octr. but the rebellious conduct of the people in the Western Counties of this state renders the journey uncertain, and may defeat it altogether.

With very great Sincerity & Affection
I am always Yours

No. 45.

German Town 28th. Augt. 1794.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Johnson & Doctr. Stuart having resolved to withdraw themselves as Commissioners of the Federal City —and not to act after the meeting which is proposed to be held on the 15th. of next month, it has become necessary to appoint two others in their places, one of whom it is said ought to possess a considerable stock of legal abilities, as cases are frequently occuring to render law knowledge necessary for the purposes of deciding as well on points depending thereon, as for the

draughting of Agreements & other instruments which are requisite in the progress of the business.

Mr. Scott (at present of Baltimore) a gentleman eminent in the profession of the law, a man of Character & fortune, and one who has the welfare of the New City much at heart—has been applied to, and accepted the appointed trust. And if it is convenient & agreeable to you, to accept also, the commission will be again compleated; & the business go on without interruption, from and after the ensuing meeting as before.

It has been found from experience, indispensibly necessary that the Commissioners should reside in the City (in George Town would be tantamount) and devote by some arrangements among themselves, much of their time to the multitudinous concerns of the same; —thereby superceding the necessity of employing a Superintendant. As the rendering of such duties are not to be expected on the terms the late Commissioners served (and two of them decline it on any terms) I have now fixed the Salary for each at sixteen hundred dollars P. Annum, and am obliged to provide successors.

Were it not that I am unwilling to add any thing that might carry with it, the appearance of influencing your judgment, in the decision you are called upon to make in this case, I should have expressed a wish that it might be found convenient for you to accept the appointment. If however you should find it incompatible with your other plans & views, & should decline the acceptance—I pray you to let me know, as far as you may be able to discover, in how respectable a light Doctr. Thornton stands, or would be considered by the proprietors of the Federal City (among whom he spent some time in the month of July last). The Doctr. is sensible and indefatigable I am told in the execution of whatever he engages;—to which may be added, his taste for architecture; but being little known, doubts

arise on that head. If (in case of your non-acceptance) any other person or persons shd. occur to you, as fit for this business, be so good as to mention (under the rose) their names to me. The appointment is necessary & can be delayed no longer.

With very great esteem & regard
I am dear Sir
Your Affecte. Servt.

No. 46.

German Town, 31st. Augt. 1794.

My dear Sir,

On the 28th. I wrote you two letters. In one of them I intended (but forgot it) to have made a request that you would enquire after the lad that used to wait at Suter's (William I think his name was) whose servitude had expired, and if disengaged and his character good, as well as handy, to engage him for me at eight Dollars P. Month, (with the other allowances known to you) being what I am now obliged to give, to the most indifferent set of servants I ever had. When I mention William I do not mean to confine myself to him, although his qualifications as a *waiter* (the only light in which he has appeared to me) to be very good;—any other genteel looking and well made man (not a giant or dwarf) might answer equally well perhaps, if sober, honest, good tempered, and acquainted with the duties of a house Servant, & footman.

Sincerely & affectionately
I remain Yours

No. 47.

Philadelphia, Decr. 12th. 1794.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 5th. Inst. and the receipt for the

second payment for the lots I purchased on the Eastern Branch, in the Federal City came duly to hand.

You are perfectly at liberty to examine my presses and Trunks at Mount Vernon, for any papers I may have respecting the transactions of the Directors of the Potomack Compa., or any matters and things which may concern the navigation of that River.

Mrs. Fanny Washington has the master key of all the others, from whom you can get it;—but whether the papers you are in pursuit of are to be found in the press, or in any Trunks I am unable to inform you;—the keys of the locked trunks are, if I remember rightly, in my writing Table; the key of which remains in it.

For many very important reasons (unnecessary to enumerate to you) the navigation of that River ought to be pushed forward with all the celerity, which the nature of the work will admit. Veiwing the matter as I do, I shall not neglect any *fair* opportunity of facilitating a visit from Mr. Weston to that quarter—but (under the rose I must say it) however fair the assurances of his going thither may be, you may take it for granted that from motives of jealousy there is a Countertide to that measure;—and I wish you may not find something similar to it in another quarter, if the operations on the Shannondoah are postponed—much longer. Do not forget how the Trade of Fredericksburg Falmouth, Hanover Town on York River, & indeed Richmond itself, will be effected by the opening of this Navigation—I should not be at all surprised therefore if future applications to the Assembly of Virga.—(if there be occasion to make any) respecting it should meet with much coldness and difficulty.

I should not any more than you, be disposed to confide in the opinion of Mr. Claiborne's Engineer; nor (in confidence to you) to Mr. Claiborne himself;—but as he speaks in exalted terms of this man (for you must

know Claiborne is now in this City and has mentioned the matter also to me) a little money might not be misapplied in obtaining the opinion of this Engineer; to see how far it would accord with Mr. Weston's—if he can be got there;—without, if he should follow after, letting him know what that opinion is. Tis possible this person may unite (as Claiborne says he does) both Science & practice. If so, and he should possess other requisites, he might be useful. Tryal of, without a relyance upon him, cannot be injurious.

Mr. Jonathan Trumbull has once or twice asked me what reply the Commissioners of the Federal have made to the letter of his brother John which I sent to them—be so good as to remind them, or either of them wch. you may first see of this matter.

I am Yours Affectly.

No. 48.

PHILADELPHIA, Decr. 14th. 1794.

My dear Sir,

The day following the one on which I wrote to you last your letter of the 10th. inst. was received.

It is to be regretted exceedingly that delegated powers are, often-times so little regarded; and that trusts of an important nature, the neglect of which, may be attended with serious consequences, should be suffered to sleep in the hands of those who ought to carry them into activity. Such from your representation appears to be the case of the Petition which ought in behalf of the Potomac Compy. to have been laid before the Assembly of Virginia in due Season.

The *notice* of the intended presentment of such Petitions (which is required by law) cannot I presume be dispensed with;—and if there be any derilection to the measures prayed for, the limitation to & expira-

tion of the time for the reception of them will be urged as a plea for Postponement.

The propriety of *my* writing to individual members, or even to the Assembly itself, on this subject is, in my mind, a matter that may be questioned;— but supposing the case to be otherwise, I do not know who the members are; and such indeed has been the change of things, since I mixed in the politics; or much with the people of that State, (and of the neighbourhood of Alexandria) that an entire new set unknown to me personally, are in the exercise of the powers of Government. To morrow however I will communicate this matter to Mr. Randolph, and know if he has any acquaintances, in that Assembly, to whom he could introduce the subject,—and thereby aid your personal exertions. 'Tis to be lamented however that in *plain* matters—a little ticklishly circumstanced—such hazzards (at least of delay) should be unnecessarily encountered. We are all well, and join in best wishes for you—and I am

Affectionately Yours

No. 49.

PHILADELPHIA, Decr. 21st. 1794.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 17th. Inst. was received Yesterday, —and I am glad to find that an act of the Virginis Assembly has been obtained for prolonging the term for the completion of the inland navigation of the Potomac. The like I hope has been, or will be obtained, this Season, in the assembly of Maryland.

A good opportunity presenting itself on Thursday last, I embraced it to inquire of Mr. Morris if the Directors of that Company might entertain any hope of deriving aid from Mr. Weston's opinion, respecting the lock Seats at the great fall of that River;—his

answer was, "Mr. Weston, from some peculiar circum-"stances attending their own concerns, had been pre-"vented from visiting that spot as was intended, but "that he was now expected to be in this City in a few "days (as I understood) when he would propose and "urge his going thither."

The plan of Mr. Claiborne's Engineer, as far as I understand it is to avoid locks altogether. The vessels are received into a Basket or Cradle, and let down by means of a laver and pullies; and raised again by Weights at the hinder extremity of the laver, which works on an axis at the head of a substantial Post, fixed about the Center of the laver. On this principle but differently constructed, Mr. Greenleaf a few months ago shewed me a model, the efficacy of which he seemed to entertain the most exalted opinion. My doubts of the utility of both arise, first from the insufficiency of any machinery of this sort to bear the weight of the Cradle when charged with Water & a loaded Boat therein; and its aptness to get out of order by means thereof;—Secondly I do not find they are in general use;—and thirdly—because if I recollect rightly—Mr. Weston has told me (but of this I am not certain) that no method of raising and lowering boats had been found equal to that of locks—still, as I observed in my last, I should be for hearing the opinions & explanations of *any* and *every* scientific and practical character that could be easily got at, on the subject:—& therefore would hear Claiborne's Engineer as well as Mr. Weston;—especially as he professes to be particularly well skilled in the application of steam, in propelling Boats (in an easy and cheap manner) against the Stream;—and in conducting of Water to Cities, or for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Bill you allude to has not passed nor do I know what shape it will take if it does;—& therefore can say

nothing more on the subject at this time, than that, there will be no precipitancy, in engaging either the Agent or the means of carrying the law into effect, if the measure which I have recommended should be adopted; with the importance of it I am strongly impressed; consequently if any thing should be required of the president towards carrying of it into execution, I shall feel it in a *particular* manner, my duty to set it a going under the most favorable auspices.

I now have and for some considerable time have had twenty five Hhds. Tobo. in the Ware houses in Alexandria, which at some times I have *forgot*, and at other times have been indisposed to take the prices which were given for Potomac Tobo. on the Virginia side. Originally this Tobacco was of the best sort—put up dry—& the quality of it reported to be exceedingly good. If the latter is the case still, it will in some repects, and for some purposes, have the advantage of New Tabacco; but what to do with it I know not. In Alexandria it might not bring me 18/ P. Hundred Wt.—when in George Town (I mean in the ware houses in these places) it might bring a guinea. I have thought, but whether it will be practicable to accomplish it without difficulty I am unable to decide, that if the Tobo. could be removed from the Ware houses in which it now is, to those in George Town & be reinspected at the latter, that I might be a considerable gainer by it. But admitting that this *can* be done without encountering impediments which might involve inconveniencies; or that would excite notice or remark, neither of which I should incline to subject myself to, it would be previously necessary to know whether the Tobacco would pass at the latter place, for if it should be brought there and be condemned, I should lose the whole and sustain an expence besides,—whereas in its present situation, it will I presume com-

mand the price current in Alexandria. If the suggestion here mentioned can be accomplished (without involving the consequencies expressed above) the best expedient that occurs to me to effect it, is under the idea of its being purchased by, or rather offered for sale to a Maryland Merchant, to have it re-examined where it is in presence of the George Town Inspectors who would be paid for their attendance, & who should declare to the *supposed* purchaser whether they would pass it were it brought to the Ware houses in George Town. If in the affirmative, and there is no other impediment to the measure, the whole business might be easily accomplished by the removal, reinspection, & issuing new notes, either in my name or that of the supposed purchaser;—the last of which for several reasons I think would have the best appearance. Whether this project can be carried into execution or not is to me uncertain but to avoid delay and in order to enable you to do it if it shall be thought eligable, I send you the Notes for this purpose, and to *know* what the Tobacco would sell for where it is, if it be not eligable to remove it—they may be kept or returned according to circumstances. In the Ware houses at George Town I have or ought to have by this time, 9000 lbs. of Crop Tobo.—as you will perceive by the enclosed letter to me from Colo. Deakins, the price of this also.

I return Doctr. Currie's letter with thanks for the perusal of it. The picture drawn in it of the state of things in his own Counry, and the details wch. he gives of those of the Belligerient powers are gloomy *for them indeed*. All here are well, and all join in best regards for you, with—Dear Sir, Your Affectionate

P. S.

I have sought in vain for the Tobacco notes men-

tioned in the body of this letter. Presuming I must have sent them to Mr. Pearce—but of the doing it I have no recollection—I have directed him by this Post if he has them to forward them to you.

No. 50.

PHILADELPHIA, Decr. 22nd. 1794.

My dear Sir,

Looking into an old porte folio which I had not seen this many a day, I found the papers which accompany this note, relative to the River Potomack. I do not know that any of them will be useful to you; but as well for the purpose of keeping them together, as to afford you an opportunity of deciding for yourself, they are now forwarded to you.

I also send you the sketch which has been presented to me by Mr. Claiborne, of the New Method of lowering and raising boats, without locks. It will convey a better Idea than my description of it in the letter of Yesterday was capable of doing, & for that reason it is forwarded.

I am Your Affecte. Servt.

No. 51.

PHILADELPHIA, Jany. 9th. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st. Inst. has been received, but not soon after the date of it as might have been expected, & not recollecting in time that this was Post day for the Southward, I shall confine myself to a single point; namely, to inform you as I have been informed myself, that in a late meeting of the Canal Company of this State permission was given to Mr. Weston to visit the lock seats at the great falls of Poto-

mac, and that he might be expected there about the first of next month.

I am Your Affecte

No. 52.

PHILADELPHIA, Jany 12th. 1795.

My dear Sir,

On Friday last I wrote you a few lines and assigned reasons for not writing more fully.

In addition to what I then said, which was only to inform you, that permission had been given by the Canal Compy. of this state for Mr. Weston to visit the falls of Potomac, and that he might be expected at the Federal City about the first of next month, I shall notice with concern—it being contrary to the heretofore entertained opinion—that the funds for carrying on navigation are from your view of them likely to fall short £10,000 Stg. of the object.

What expedient had best be adopted for suppyling the deficiency will merit serious consideration under existing Circumstances. On an abstract of the Case, I should give it as my opinion, without hesitation, that the present sharers ought to continue their advances till the final completion;—& for this plain & interesting reason, (with me) that no speculation to which money can be applied will be more productive, with so much honour, and so little risque. But how far the majority of the Company (many of whom probably never bestowed a thought on the Subject) may be of this sentiment; or how far their inclinations and abilities might induce the adoption of the measure if they were is not for me to decide—and as individuals of the Company will be as free as others to become purchasers if the shares are increased, it does not appear to be a matter of much moment which of these modes is prefered, or whether by loan if the money is to be obtained.

No doubt remains in my mind of what will be the productiveness of the tolls when the navigation is in full operation. To the best of my recollection they were calculated to amount (at the time of passing the acts of incorporation) to 15 P. Cent on the Capital, by an estimate that was then made of the several articles which from their contiguity to the River it was known would be Water borne. Since that period the population of the Counties bordering on the Potomac & of course the produce arising therefrom has encreased greatly, and when the Shenendoah is added thereto (which formed no part of the Original estimate) it must equal the most sanguine expectation.

Mr. Claiborne's Engineers (for it seems he has *two* for different purposes) are fixed in this City, either of which according to the use for which you want one, might be had at any time, but as I am not strongly impressed with a belief that men of eminence would come to this Country in the manner, and under the circumstances, they have done (but this I say without having knowledge of the real characters of the gentlemen, & without design to injure them) might it not be politic to obtain the opinion of the most competent of them, before Mr. Weston (who is known to be a Scientific & experienced Engineer) gives his? He will not adopt their opinion contrary to his experience & judgment; but if his opinion is first taken and transpires, it may be given into *by them* from the want of these in themselves, endeavoring thereby to erect a character on his foundation.

I am much obliged by the trouble of your enquiries respecting my Tobacco in the Ware houses at Alexandria & George Town, and as the disposal of it is some what out of my way at present and in truth is a matter that rarely occurs to me, except when I am reminded of it by Mrs. Washington, you would add

to the favor by making sale of it, on such terms and whensoever in your judgmt. the moment is favorable. I am in no hurry nor under any necessity to precipitate the Sale, & to your judgment also it is left, to continue where it is or to remove the Tobacco from Alexandria to George Town. We are all tolerable well & join in good wishes & the Compliments of the Season to you. With regard & affection

I am always Yours

No. 53.

PHILADELPHIA, 18th. Feby. 1795.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th. Inst. came to me yesterday—previous to which your other letters of the 24th. & 30th. Ulto. had been duly received.

About a fortnight ago I saw & spoke to Mr. Weston myself respecting his visit to the falls of Potomac, and wished if he was able that he would name the time he would, or expected, to be there. He answered about the last of the month. That he had to return first to Lebanon (near to which they are digging the Canal between the Waters of Susquehanna & Schuylkill) and should proceed from thence. As it is more than probable than his rout will be by the way of Carlisle—Shippensburgh, — Chambersburgh, and Hagerstown, above the mountain,—or if not by that course, it will be through York & Frederick Town below it;—and in either case that he will return by Baltimore, it is to be regretted (as in a former letter you expressed a wish that he should see the Shannondoah near its conflyence with the Potomack) that some previous arrangement could not have been made for the purpose of meeting him at or near the spot you wished him to view above. This for many reasons I could not propose nor had I an opportunity of doing it admitting the propriety of the

measure, as it was on a public day (in what is called the Levee Room) and just as he was leaving the City that I saw him. Some embarrassments respecting the business of the Canal Companies in this State brought and detained him here longer than was expected;—but this circumstance was unknown to me until the moment of his departure, otherwise I should have seen him sooner, and would have conversed more fully with him on his proposed visit. To his detention here may be ascribed his not being with you at an earlier day than is now thought of.

Much has been said of late of the inclined plain in Connecticut River, of the utility of it I mean;—It would be well, I think, to question Mr. Weston pretty fully on this mode of raising and lowering Boats, as the simplicity, cheapness, and effect is the subject of Eulogium—deservedly or not, I shall not undertake to pronounce.

The family are all well. Betcy & Mr. & Mrs. Peter, left this on Monday morning for New York to return on Saturday. Mrs. Washington & the other two join me in every good wish for you and

I am sincerely & affectionately

Yours

No. 54.

PHILADELPHIA, March 4th. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of the 23d. Ulto. came duly to hand. The letters which I write to acquaintances, or friends, are done at no great expence of time or thought They are off hand productions, with little attention to composition or correctness; and even under these circumstances are rarely attempted when they interfere with my public duties.

From what you have written and from what I have heard from others, I hope Mr. Weston is on the Potomack 'ere this; and that much benefit may be expected from the visit. He is certainly a judicious man;—with both theory and Practice united. I am pleased to hear that the Locks which have been erected at the little falls have stood the test of a first trial so well;—and this pleasure will be increased if Mr. Weston should make a favorable report of them.

An unlucky dispute has happened, or is likely to happen, I find between the *present* Commissioners—and Mr. Johnson (one of the old set). These things under any view in which they can be placed, are extremely unpleasant, & are rendered more so, when they are brought before *me*. The points in dispute have not come before me in *detail*—the *main* one I am told is, whether the lots adjoining Rock Creek above the Stone Bridge, come under the description of *Water lotts;* and would be so construed in the contract between the former Commissioners & Mr. Greenleaf. From what I have learnt it is a question of some magnitude, in as much as establishing a principle applicable to that case, will have an extensive effect in favour of or adverse to the public property in the City. This being the case let me ask you to collect the Sentiments of the judicious about you in the City & in George Town, as far as it is to be drawn from casual (at least not from forced) conversation respecting the dispute, and to inform me thereof. You will readily perceive that it is for my *own* and *private* information my request to you proceeds:—both the request and answer to it, will then of course be confined to ourselves.

With affectionate regard
I am Your Sincere friend

No. 55.

PHILADELPHIA, 17th. May 1795.

Dear Sir,

About the sum which is due to me from your House, I owe the Commissioners of the Federal City;—let me request you therefore to ascertain—pay—and transmit the acct. thereof to me. If in doing this the balance shall be against me, it shall be paid to your order—if in my favor, let it remain there till called for.

I am Your Affecte. Servt.

No. 56.

PHILADELPHIA, 25th. May, 1795.

My dear Sir,

In due course of the Post I have been favored with your letters of the 17th. Inst. from Baltimore and 20th. from George Town;—and thank you for the information contained in both.

Enclosed I send you what money I had by me of my private funds;—and an order on the Bank of Alexandria for all I have there. Both of which sums I pray you to lay out in the purchase of Stock in that Bank—or the Bank of Columbia—or in both, as from circumstances, and the information you may possess at the moment, you shall deem most advisable and advantageous.

The sum enclosed is nine hundred and sixty dollars, in notes of the United States Bank. The sum in the Bank of Alexandria amounts, according to the information given me by Mr. Pearce, to three thousand four hundred and thirty Dollars & sixty seven Cents. But be it more or less, the order embraces it. With my sincere esteem & regard I am

Dear Sir

Yr. Affecte. friend

Bank Notes			Dolls.
5	of	100 dollars each	500
2	of	50	100
18	of	10	180
36	of	5	180
			960

No. 57.

PHILADELPHIA, 4th. June, 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your letters of the 26th. and 29th. Ulto. have been duly received, but not adverting in time that the Post returned on Wednesday I could not answer the latter until this day.

I pray you to continue your purchases in either of the Banks of Alexandria or Columbia; or, both; as you shall deem best;—so far as the appropriated sums in your hands belonging to me (to which add the three thousand dollars received from Doctr. Stuart) will go. In doing this, let the call for ten dollars on each share purchased in the Bank of Columbia be included;—because until I receive payment for some land which I have sold, or the Cash for my flour, &c.—which is not yet due, I shall not have it in my power to apply a further sum to this use.

It gives me great pleasure to hear that the public buildings are going on briskly—and that persons from the Southward (for I believe it is the first instance beyond a single lot or so) are becoming adventurers in the Federal City—with a view to improvements.

I am clearly in sentiment with you (and the Commissioners know it) that if the business can proceed without *limping* that the lots which belong to the public ought to be held up, except single ones or a

Square at *most* and those only to be disposed of on the express condition of improvement.

The Senators are beginning to assemble. By Monday (the day appointed for their meeting) it is presumed they will all be here, as some of the most distant are already on the ground. The members of this family are all well & join in best wishes for you with

Dear Sir

Your Affecte.

No. 58.

PHILADELPHIA, 15th. June, 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your letters of the 3d. & 4th. Inst. (in the date of the latter I presume there is a mistake) with several Accounts enclosed in the first, have been duly received; as was the certificate of the Shares, which was bought in the Banks of Alexandria & Columbia on my behalf.

Your preference of the former for the appropriation of the balance which remain in your hands, is accordant with my ideas; and unless you have very good reasons to believe that the shares may be had at par by delaying the purchase of them, it might be as well perhaps to buy at the prices now going (especially if the overplus will meet compensation in the dividends) as to await for a fall.

Being hurried I shall only add the good wishes of this family to my own, and assure you of the sincere esteem & regard with which I am

Dear Sir,

Your Affecte. friend

No. 59.

MOUNT VERNON, 5th. Augt. 1795.

My dear Sir,

It is my intention at present to be in George Town

to morrow, but as I have been sending to the Post Office in Alexandria, every day since Friday last for letters, without having recd. any from the officers of Government; and may by this day's mail find such an accumulation of them, as to make it impracticable for me to give them proper attention, prepare answers against Saturday morning—and be on business in George Town at the same time; I now send you a power of Attorney to act for me (if I should not be there) in the latter case. In haste I am

Your Affecte. Servt.

No. 60.

PHILADELPHIA, 2d. Novr. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your letters of the 19th.&—Ulto. came duly to hand, and I expected 'ere this to have been decisive upon the contents of them;—but the case being otherwise, I shall postpone writing fully to you until the next or another Post.

It may not be amiss however briefly to observe that Colo. Rochfontain (being in this City) was asked how it came to pass, as he had seen the site at the confluence of the two Rivers Potomac & Shanandoah, he had made no mention of it in his general Report? His answer was, there was no ground on which convenient buildings could be placed, and assigned other reasons in a written report, which he made. But since the receipt of your last, with a letter from Genl. Darke to the Secretary of War—I have suggested his going there again in order to view the ground more accurately. This, if nothing more pressing shall require his attendance in another quarter, will be the case. I shall defer therefore saying any thing further on the subject till the matter is decided. If the Colo. goes at all, he

will probably pass through George Town, and if it could be made convenient for Col. Gilpin (who understands the nature and application of water well) and yourself to accompany him—advantages, I am persuaded, would result from the journey. One of the Colo's. objections to this site is that no water work (on acct. of freshets) would be safe there. These lands, however considering the reservations of the Ferries, buildings &c. will come much higher than I had any idea of.

If you have not already agreed for the rent of my house in Alexandria @ Sixty pounds Pr. Annum, I wish this sum might be compared with other rents, before it is fixed on. I was told by several as I passed through Alexandria, that I might readily dispose of the lot, if I was so inclined, for £1200:—Sixty pounds rent would only be an interest of 5 P. Cent—which is inadequate for house rent.

Give my love to Fanny & the children, in which Mrs. Washington joins, and be assured of the sincere esteem & regard of—Dear Sir

Yr. Affecte.

No. 61.

PHILADELPHIA, 30th. Novr. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 17th. Inst. came safe to hand, but not before the 26th.

I intended to have written to you by Colo. Rochfontaine—but he went off unknown to me. Upon a second view of the site, at the Conflux of the Rivers Potomac & Shenandoah, with the explanations he will receive from Colo. Gilpin & yourself, I hope and expect the advantages of that spot, will strike him more favorable than was indicated in his reports—and that something will be decided upon with precision.

It is with great pleasure that I learn from your letters, that the River between the Great and Little falls has been so much improved this fall, and that the prospect of getting some of the new Shares subscribed for by the Maryland assembly is so good;—I wish as good a disposition may be found in the other assembly:—but above all that your means would enable you to proceed vigorously to the improvement of the Navigation of the Shenandoah River;—for that is the Source from whence the wealth of the City is to be derived.

If the Directors are in want of such a character, as the enclosed letter describes, it may be well to intimate it as soon as possible; as it is not likely that Mr. Myers will remain long unemployed, as lock navigation is contemplated in many parts of this Country. I have not seen the Gentleman myself, but understand from others that his testimonials are full & ample, & that he is a stout & healthy man.

Your opening Mr. Maury's letter to me was a thing of necessity, and I am obliged to you for having done so; and for the steps you took consequent thereupon—& for sending the goods to Mount Vernon.

If I cannot get a full rent for my house in Alexandria, I must be content with what it will fetch, and that without delay; otherwise (the cold weather approaching) the inclosures will be torn down for firing, if no other damage is sustained from its being left unoccupied. My love to Fanny & children.

I am always, & Sincerely
Your affectionate

P. S.

I will send to and have a little conversation with Mr. Myers and give you the result in my next.

No. 62.

PHILADELPHIA, 2d. Decr. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Since writing to you on Monday I have seen & conversed with Mr. Myers; who is desirous of employment, and of removing from this place,—which (having a pretty large family) he finds very expensive. He professes to understand perfectly the various matters set forth in the card I enclosed you in my last;—and was employed according to his own acct. in the Lancashire navigation in England, until the call for Soldiers took away most of the hands. This circumstance, added to a desire to fix his fortunes in America, where he has some property in Land, and his wife is a native, induced him to embark for this Country.

He disapproves of Locks, made of wood but understands them in all their parts. He is healthy in appearance, stout & Robust, and of a good humored countenance. He professes to be moderate in his expectations; and willing to put himself upon trial a Year; the Wages to be fixed at the end of it. He gave me to understand however that at the Lancashire Works he recd. three hundred guineas a year and some small perquisites;—and added that compensations were very much governed, by the prices of necessaries, & the expence of living.

I told him that I would write by this day's post, and by that of Thursday of next week, such an answer might be received, as to enable him to decide upon the eligibility of his waiting upon the Directors for further explanations.

I do not write formally otherwise I should have directed this letter to the board; but as you can easily consult the members of it,— it would be well to express their sence on the contents of it. Nor do I mean to

give any opinion of my own on the subject; as the Directors know better than I do, in what train the affairs of the Company is,— & what their wants are. All that I shall say is, that if Mr. Myers really understands all he professes, particularly that of Lock navigation, he will not be long without applications in abundance, especially as the members of Congress are now assembling from all parts of the U. States.

Whatever you chuse should be *said* to Mr. Myers, let it be comprised in a letter to me, or him, as you please, if to me I shall put it into his hands, that there may be no misunderstanding of the sentiments. Give my love to Fanny & the children & believe me to be

Your affecte.

No. 63.

PHILADELPHIA, 25th. Decr. 1795.

My dear Sir,

Your several letters relative to the state of the applications to the assemblies of Maryland & Virginia on the business of the Potomac Company, and the result thereof, have been duly received.

The last dated the 21st. I directed Mr. Dandridge to show to Mr. Myers (knowing the suspence in which he was held) and to add, that if upon the strength of the information therein, he inclined to visit the Directors, I would give him a line of introduction. This communication produced the enclosed letter from him:— but Mr. Dandridge having expressed no more, than he was directed to do, there is no commitment.

I mention this because the letter of Mr. Myers seems to imply more; and as much depends upon the skill, industry & other qualifications of an Engineer, or person employed in such a work, that you may examine him critically yourselves; for it is proper I should observe, that I have no other knowledge of Mr. Myer's

fitness, than what is derived from his own acct—& some papers which he has shown, but which I had not leisure to examine correctly.

The post hour having arrived, I have only time to add, that we are all well—& join in affectionate regards to you & yours.

Yours always

No. 64.

PHILADELPHIA, 26th. Decr. 1795.

Dear Sir,

This letter will be handed to you by Capt. Myers, of whom I have made mention in a former letter.

Being desirous of knowing whether the directors of the Potomac Company are disposed to employ him as an engineer & Superintendant of their lock navigation, and on what terms, he has resolved to wait on them for those purposes.

The tes imonials of his skill as an Architect, and of his knowledge relative to Locks, &c. will I presume be presented to you. These with such further inquiries as prudence may induce you to make, will enable you to decide on your measures, and thereby place Capt. Myers on the ground of Certainty. With great esteem & regard I am dear sir

Your Affecte. Servt.

P. S.

Since this letter has been written, yours of the 23d. has been recd. & shown to Capt. Myers.

PHILADELPHIA 15th Feby 1796.

MR. TOBIAS LEAR

My dear Sir,

On thursday last I recd your letter of——(now in the hands of Colo Pickering & date not remembered.)

The business relative to the arsenal at the mouth of Shenandoah, has been *shamefully* neglected:—and (but under the rose I make the Observation) I fear with design;—for I was continually reminding the officer whose duty it was to carry the measure into effect, of the improvident delay; and about a fortnight after finding the matter remained in Statu quo., I gave a peremptory order for the execution: And was informed since by the Gentleman, that he had written to you on the subject.—How it comes to pass that you should be ignorant of this at the date of your letter,—there being sufficient time for the receipt of the former, is somewhat mysterious. Allowances ought unquestionably to be made for the multiplied duties of two offices, which were discharged by one person,—but the footing of which this business stood, and my frequent enquiries into it—ought to have produced more promptness in the Execution. I hope no change in Price will force a Change of Place;—And that the thing will go on as if no delay had hapned.

I am very glad to find that the affairs of the potomack Company, are in so promising a train, and wish Capt Myres' may prove an acquisition in the superintendance of them.

I pray you to let me have a statement of my account with you;—and for informing me precisely what Shares I hold in the Banks of Alexandria & Columbia. My love to Fanny & the Children And with very great esteem & regard I remain

Your affecte friend & Servt

Go Washington

P. S. Mr White seems to entertain no doubt of a favorable issue to his Mission—but it goes (as every thing else does) slowly on.

No. 65.

PHILADELPHIA, 13th. Mar. 1796.

My dear Sir,

Your letters of the 26th. Ulto. and 2d. Instant, came safe to hand, after some delay. The first, with the Will of Harper, has been put into the hands of the attorney Genl. to aid him in the conveyances. To such parts of the second as require it, I am about to reply; first expressing my satisfaction at the happy termination of the business which you undertook in behalf of the public.

Having no doubt of the correctness of the account, which was transmited in the last mentioned letters; I have only to beg that you would favor me with the numbers—or other designation or description, of all the shares I now hold, in the Banks of Alexandria & Columbia, by your purchases,—and to request if you wish to part with any of the twenty shares you purchased in the Potomac Navigation, that you would appropriate the balance due me, by your account, in as many as it will command;—first paying up the Installment on the old; called for I perceive to be paid on the first of the present month. If my *present* purposes and gratifications could be answered by prospects of *future* emolument, I would devote all the money I could command, to this Investiture;—but for the few Years I have to remain here, the enjoyment of less, with ease & certainty, will be more convenient and desirable.

If my resources were adequate to the purchase of the lots and houses which are offered for sale in Alexandria, I would gladly have been the purchaser of them on the terms mentioned in your letter of the 2d. Inst. but as these depend upon contingencies which may baffle calculation, I chuse to tread on sure ground in all my en-

gagements, being as unwilling to embarrass others by uncertain contracts, as I am to be deceived myself in my expectations from the assurances which I receive of promised paymt.

From the enquiries which have already been made of you, relatively to my Farms at Mount Vernon, I take the liberty of enclosing you the terms, on which I mean to lease them. My expectation of disposing of them at the Rents therein mentioned, to such tenants as I should chuse, is not very sanguine;—nor would I incline to do it to the slovenly farmers of this Country; if I had a tolerably well founded hope of getting them from any other, where husbandry is better understood, and more rationally practiced, the mentioning of which to some of your acquaintance, as you may chance to fall in with them (particularly the English & Scotch, the latter more especially) might be a means perhaps, of their suggesting it to others in the land they came from.

It is not my intention, at least at the present moment, to let the negroes go with the land,—but if enquiries on this head should be repeated, it might be useful to me to learn on what terms, these and the Lands conjointly, could be disposed of. Remember me kindly to Fanny & the children, and be assured of the Sincere friendship of Yr. Affecte. Servt.

No. 66.

PHILADELPHIA, 21st. Mar. 1796.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 14th. Inst. did not get to my hands until Saturday. Mine dated the 13th. acknowledging the receipt of your favors of the 26th. Ulto. & 2d. inst. must I presume have been received in due course of the Post, and therefore to repeat the contents of it is unnecessary.

A Mr. Summers of Alexandria is very desirous of purchasing my vacant lot in that Town;—and having been told that nothing short of a high price would induce me to sell it, makes the offer contained in the enclosed letters. Whether this offer is high or otherwise, depends upon comparison, the means of doing which is not within my reach, but thro' the medium of another, & therefore I give you the trouble of making some inquiry in the matter at any time when you are in Alexandria. I have no wish to part with the lot, unless I can do it upon advantageous terms; and can dispose of the money in a more productive manner. I had thoughts of building on it, but this would be attended with trouble and perhaps a good deal of imposition, as it could not be properly attended to in the execution of the work. And besides workman's wages, and materials are very high at this time.

A thought has run through my mind (since I began this letter) whether, as I have a prospect from the high price of flour, of raising five or six thousand dollars from the same of it; it might not be eligable with that sum & the sale of the vacant lot (to Summers) to make the purchase suggested in one of your former letters to me? If that property is in an eligable place (and I wish to know where it lies) or whether or not if it would bring ten P. Cent on the purchase money, it would certainly be more immediately advantageous to me than to let a part of the sum, necessary to command it, lay dead in a vacant lot, which when built on, would only be to let. Mr. Dandridge's ansr. to Mr. Summer's enclosed, is left open for your perusal and may be delivered to him or not, at any time you may find it convenient.

As the Post hour is at hand and I have many letters to close, & prepare for the mail, I hardly know what I have written, or whether you will be able fully to

comprehend my meaning. My love in which Mrs. Washington unites is presented to Fanny & the children, and I am Dear Sir

Your Affecte. Servt.

PHILADELPHIA 27th March 1796

MR TOBIAS LEAR,

My Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 21st & 23d Inst have filled us with pain and anxiety; from which probably, we shall not be relieved before tuesday; tho' we shall hope on that day to hear that both Fanny, and Maria are much better, if not entirely recovered.

Upon receipt of the first of the letters above mentioned, I made immediate enquiry in what train the business respecting the Arsenal on Potomack was in, and have since been informed by the (present) secretary of War, that he has written to you on the subject. I wish sincerely that the sickness in your family, had not prevented your journey to this City, & that it may not retard it much longer as the Departments at this juncture are so full of business as to require more attention, and urging in particular matters than the pressure of my own allows me to bestow.

When you come we will make room for you to lodge in some manner or other, as the only spare room we have will I expect be occupied by Young Fayette & his Tutor.

I wish devoutly, in which Mrs. Washington cordially unites, that this letter may find Fanny & Maria perfectly restored. My best regards to them & with affection

I am always Yours

GO WASHINGTON

No. 67.

PHILADELPHIA, 30th. March 1796.

My dear Sir,

Your former letters prepared us for the stroke, which that of the 25th. Inst. announced, but it has fallen heavily notwithstanding.

It is the nature of humanity to mourn for the loss of our friends, and the more we loved them the more poignant is our grief. It is part of the precepts of religion & Philosophy, to consider the dispensations of Providence as wise, immutable, uncontroulable; of course that it is our duty to submit with as little repining as the sensibility of our natures is capable, to all its decrees. But nature will, notwithstanding, endulge for a while its sorrows.

To say how much we loved & esteemed our departed friend is unnecessary. She is now no more!—but she must be happy, because her virtue has a claim to it.

As you talked of coming to this place on business let us press you to do so. The same Room that serves Mr. Dandridge & Washington is large enough to receive a bed also for you;—and it is needless to add we shall be glad of your Company. The change may be serviceable to you, and if our wishes were of any avail, they would induce you to make your stay here, as long as your convenience would permit.

At all times, and under all circumstances, we are and ever shall remain, Your Sincere and

Affecte. friends
GO. WASHINGTON
M. WASHINGTON

No. 68.

PHILADELPHIA, 4th. April, 1796.

My dear Sir,

As your letter of the 30th. Ulto. gives me room to ex-

pect you here in a few days. I shall do no more than acknowledge the receipt of it, repeat the request contained in a joint letter (written by Mrs. Washington and myself to you) of the 30th. Ulto.—and request, if a vessel from Liverpool called the Commerce, commanded by Capt. Tuttle should have arrived at George Town, that Mr. Pearce may have immediate notice of it, as there will be in it two Sacks of field Peas & some other seeds for me in her, which ought *now* to be in the ground.

With sincerity & affection
I am—Yrs.

No. 69.

PHILADELPHIA, 29th. April, 1796.

My dear Sir,

Yesterday's Post brought me the letters which had arrived in the Commerce, Capt. Tuttell; enclosing Invoice and Bill of lading for the long expected Seeds (which by the by have cost me at least four times as much as I expected.

The Invoice and Bill of lading are now sent to you lest from the want of them, any difficulty or delay should arise on the account of the duties, and they are accompanied with an earnest request that the packages may be forwarded to Mr. Pearce with as little delay as possible, the season for sowing the Peas & Succory being already far advanced. The winter vetch cannot be sown before autumn.

If you incline to try some of these seeds at your farm, you are very welcome to part of each sort. When the purposes for which Mr. Murray's letter, Invoice & Bill of lading are sent, are answered be so good as to return them to

Dear Sir
Your Affecte. Servt.

P. S.

If the seeds should before the arrival of this letter, have been sent to Mount Vernon, I pray you to contrive the one, by some safe conveyance to Mr. Pearce. And Washington requests you will send the letter he has written to his sister Peter. It relates to their Carriages & some other matters entrusted to his enquiries.

No. 70.

PHILADELPHIA, 6th. May 1796.

Dear Sir,

This letter will be put into your hands by Mr. Volney, who proposes to visit the Federal City. If you are not acquainted with him personally, I am sure you must have a knowledge of his character, his travels, & works,—I therefore recommend him to your civilities; while he remains in the Federal City.

I am always & Sincerely Yours

No. 71.

PHILADELPHIA, 3d. of June, 1796.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 30th. Ulto. was received yesterday. As I expect (nothing new and unforeseen happening to prevent it) to commence my journey, for Mount Vernon in ten or twelve days, I shall enter into no details respecting the matters touched upon in your letter of the above date.

The chief design of my writing to you by this post is to inform you that your good mother and lovely son arrived in this City on Tuesday morning; and left it yesterday about ten o'clock, on their way to the Federal City. Mrs. Lear is very well and Lincoln as sprightly as ever; but both disappointed at not meet-

ing you here. It was with great difficulty a carriage could be procured to take her on; for it so happened that Congress closed their Session yesterday—that the members were strugling for, & bidding on each other for conveyances—and your mother's anxious desire to get to you, would not permit her to wait. At length after some unavailing attempts, Mr. Craik succeeded in getting a carriage & pair of horses, which I hope will take her safely down.

I will send sugar & some other things from hence. We are all well as usual & join in best wishes for you. With sincere Esteem, & regard

I am Your Affectionate

P. S.

A Mr. Prescott attends Mrs. Lear & Lincoln—and it is not unlikely as the weather is cool, but that they may be with you as soon as this letter, as the Post does not travel on Sunday. I did not know untill after the Post had left the City on Wednesday, that Mrs. Lear was in it, or expected, or you should have been advised of the circumstances by the mail of that day.

No. 72.

PHILADELPHIA, 16th. Novr. 1796.

My dear Sir,

I hardly know what apology to make for the positive manner in which I declared the Certificate for the hundred Shares in the Bank of Columbia, had never been in my hands. The fact is otherwise, and I delay no time to correct any error.

I found it last night and account for it thus. Given to me, I suppose, (for I have not the most obscure recollection of the circumstance) at a time when my mind was occupied on, or immediately called to, some

other subject, I put it *loose* in my traveling Chaise-box, where papers (frequently wanted at Mount Vernon) *always* remained, intending I presume to file it with the other Certificates, in the *same box;* but not doing it then, and forgetting to do it afterwards, as also of every recollection of having seen it, it might have remained there till dooms-day undiscovered, if I had not, for another purpose, examined every paper therein, *separately* and by that means found the Certificate which has puzzled both you and me to know what had become of it.

Mr. Dandridge (as I presume he has informed you) applied without encouragement to the Revd. Mr. Medor of this City (one of the Moravian clergy) for the speedy admission of Maria into the School for Young ladies at Bethlehem. Since then I have written to the principal of that School, the Revd. Mr. Van Vleck, but have not received his answer. When it comes I will forward it to you.

Mr. Smith of Alexandria to whom my flour was sold, is craving earnestly a prolongation of payment, ninety days. This I do not like for two reasons—1—because it carries along with it distrust of his circumstances;—and 2—because the doing of it would be inconvenient, and a derangement of my own measures. I have however not wanting to distress him, placed the matter upon the following ground. Pay Mr. Pearce the aggregate of his estimate of the sums necessary to pay his own wages;—the overseers;—& other incidental expences of the estate on or before the 24th, of next month, & I will wait until the first day of March next for the balance—provided he can and will give indubitable surety that both these shall be done.

As Mr. Pearce may not be well acquainted with business of this sort, or indeed with the adequacy of the security which may be offered personal or real—I have taken the liberty of mentioning the matter to

you—praying, if you should go down to your farm, that you would aid him with your advice.

Washington Custis has got settled at Princeton College, and I think under favorable auspices; but the change from his former habits is so great & sudden, and his hours for study so much encreased, beyond what he has been accustomed to, that though he promises to be attentive, it is easy to be perceived, he is not at all reconciled to it yet. That of getting up an hour before day to commence them, is, I will venture to pronounce, not the least irksome to him at present.

Offer my respects to Mrs. Lear & love to the children, in which Mrs. Washington unites.—And be assured of the sincere esteem & regard of

Dear Sir Your Affecte. friend

No. 73.

PHILADELPHIA, 25th. Novr. 1796.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 20th. Inst. was recd. yesterday, and the principal design of this is to cover the Copy of a letter from Mr. Van Vleck to me, respecting the reception of Maria at the School for young ladies in Bethlehem. It will be necessary for you to fix (for I presume it will be necessary that Mr. Van Vleck should know) precisely when she will enter; for as he is pressed by others, and receiving Maria may be considered as a favour (at this time) I would wish the matter to be regulated with punctuality.

As you and Mr. Pearce both seem to think that the security offered by Alexander Smith is, under present appearances good, I will not *now* ask for any other, but as it may be in your way to discover, without much inquiry or trouble, how matters work in Alexandria before March, I would thank you for advice if in your

judgment it should become expedient for me to resort to further means for the security of the sum which will be due me at that time from him.

I am sorry to hear your Crop of Wheat turned out so indifferently—mine I expect will be, proportiontely no better. But all these things only serve as evidences to convince me, that if we were to reduce our cultivation, or rather grounds, to half the present quantity, and manure and till that half well, that our profits would be greater; while the other half would be improving. But this is a subject too copious for my present occupations, to allow time to enter upon. And therefore I will add nothing further at this time, than that the family are all (except Mr. Frestal) well and unite in best wishes for you & Yours, with

Dear Sir

Your sincere friend &

Affecte. Servt.

No. 74.

PHILADELPHIA, 14th. Decr. 1796.

My dear Sir,

Immediately upon the receipt of your letter of the 2d. Inst. I sent a transcript of so much of it as related to Maria, and the daughter of Colo. Ball, to Mr. Van Vleck; with a request that he would answer the queries which were propounded therein under a cover to me. Enclosed is his answer and of course you will inform Colo. Ball thereof.

As I know that many unsuccessful applications had been made for admission into the young ladies' school at Bethlehem about the time I wrote to Mr. Van Vleck, the reception of Maria & her cousin must be considered as a particular favor, and Col. Ball should make a point of it, to be exact in complying with the requisitions, that are enumerated in the Director's letter.

A treatise on the improvement of Canal Navigation, came to my hands by Doctr. Edwards, as a present from the author a few days ago. As I shall have no time to look into it while I remain in this City, I make a deposit of it with you until I return to Mount Vernon. According to Doctr. Edwards' acct. Fulton's system is puting *Lock* navigation out of vogue. I have not read a page in the Book, but if the Potomac Company can extract any thing useful from it, I shall feel happy in having sent it to you. We are all well except having bad Colds; and join in best wishes for yourself and family. I am Your Affecte.

P. S.

As you communicate much with the upper Country, Mrs. Washington requests the favor of you to procure for our use, about 200 weight of good butter against the first of March by the middle of which I trust I shall be a resident at Mount Vernon.

No. 74A

PHILADELPHIA 13th Jany 1797

MR TOBIAS LEAR,

My dear Sir,

It is nearly if not quite a month since I enclosed you a letter from the Revd Mr Van Vleck, agreeing to take Colo Balls daughter along with Maria.

In that letter he mentioned his terms;—his wishes to know their exact ages;—and informed you what necessaries they ought to come provided with. To these I *added* that knowing many unsuccessful attempts had been made, to get girls admitted to that School the reception of Maria & her cousin, ought to be considered as a favor; and hoped that Colo Ball would be pointed in complying with the terms & requisitions. I requested too that you would write Mr Van Vleck (I think I added under cover to me) the precise time the Girls

were to enter. Since then I have heard nothing from you on this subject.

That letter was accompanied wth Fultons Treatise (quarto) on the improvement of Canal navigation, which I meant to deposit in your hands until my return to Mount Vernon. No acknowledgement of this neither, leads me to apprehend a miscarriage of them & is the cause of these details.

Another subject indeed has stimulated the present address. I have been asked with a degree of solicitude from the War office to what cause is to be ascribed the non execution, or not coming forward of the Deed for the Land on which the arsenal on Shanandoah is to be erected, as these were promised in a letter from you dated early in August; since which nothing has been communicated; and is embarrassing to that Department; as the necessary Items & information cannot accompany the Accounts of it in the manner that is expected;—On many accounts I hope this matter will come forward without delay and particularly for the reasons I have mentioned.

With sincere esteem & regard
I am your affectionate
Go Washington

No. 75.

Chester 9th. March, 1797.

My dear Sir,

Thus far we have arrived safe, but found it disagreeably cold.

To give the greater surety to the large looking Glasses, and such other articles as are liable to be injured by the jolting of a dray; be so good as to have taken down by hand, and stowed where they will not be trod on; or tossed about in the Vessel's hold.

The grate (from Mr. Morris's) pray have packed first in some of the old Carpeting to keep it from scratching. The bedstead which Nelly Custis slept on belongs (Mrs. Washington says) to me. Let this and the trundle under it be sent in the Vessel.

I question whether enough of the small hooks were got;—desire Mr. Dandridge to get a couple of dozen more, like the two he took out of my Room yesterday,—and he was to have got me small awls, but I believe did not do it. I wish it to be done.

Mr. Hill told me he had done something (but what I do not recollect) with the livery clothes; I pray you to enquire and know they are sent around.

Mr. Slough of Lancaster had 600 dollars sent him to buy Horses: £160 of which was expended. The balance after deducting incidental expences I expected to have recd. before I left Philadelphia; but did not, and forgot to mention it.

The newly published Pamphlets, pray purchase, and bring with you for me; Mr. Dandridge knows what I already have. Desire Peter Porcupine's Gazette to be sent to me (as a Subscriber).

If there be means left after I have fairly and honorable discharged all the claims upon myself let Mr. Dandridge (if he should have occasion for it) have to the amount of 200 or two hundred & fifty Dollars, to provide such necessaries as he may require for his voyage to be returned when convenient to him.

When the point at which the Vessel can sail is ascertained; advise me of it by letter. I wish you & all with you, every thing you wish yourselves—and am Sincerely & Affectionately

Yrs.

P. S.

On one side I am called upon to remember the Parrot,

on the other to remember the dog. For my own part I should not pine much if both were forgot.

No. 76.

HEAD OF ELK 10th. of March 1797

My dear Sir,

We arrived at this place to dinner and shall remain all night. To morrow we shall proceed but slowly.

As I have missed the Post of this afternoon, and another does not happen until Monday it is probable this letter will not reach your hands in time. If the case however should be otherwise, and you have means to accomplish it, let me request you to provide for me as usual *new* Carpeting as will cover the floor of my blue Parlour. That it may accord with the furniture it ought to have a good deal of blue in it;—and if Wilton is not much dearer than Scotch Carpeting—I would prefer the former. All the old Carpeting (belonging to me) I would have sent;—and Mrs. Washington requests that you would add the Bellows and the Vessels (Iron & Tin) in which the ashes are carried out. If two pair of new Bellows were added to the old, (and of a better kind) it would be desirable.

I pray you to desire Mr. Kitt to make all the enquiry he can after Hercules, and send him round in the Vessel if he can be discovered & apprehended.

I am always & Affectionately Yrs.

P. S.

The parlour is about 18 foot Square—a suitable border if to be had, should accompany the Carpeting. Pray get me of those Thermometers that tells the state of the Mercury within the 24 hours—Doctor Priestly or Mr. Madison can tell where it is to be had. Perhaps the old one if no thing better, may do to present to

Mr. Snowden, according to his letter to me left with you.

No. 77.

BALTIMORE, 12th. Mar. 1797.

My dear Sir,

As I ride on matters occur to me and I shall take the chance of mentioning them to you before you may have left Philadelphia. A boat was bespoke, but no direction given either for the payment or mode of getting it round. My credit is at stake as it respects the first, and my interest as it regards the second, and I shall be obliged to you for seeing how both can be promoted.

It is incumbent on me also to pay rent up to the time the house is surrendered, and to see that it is made clean and delivered up in good order. I have several times mentioned this to Mr. Dandridge and pressed it upon Mr. Kitt;—& trust it will be done. The furniture belonging to the public ought to have been well cleaned, as well as the Rooms before they were turned over to the President's order, with the Papers.

Let me request the favour of you to purchase for me half a dozen pair of the best kind of White Silk stockings (not those with gores but) to be large, and with small clocks (I think they are called) I want the same number of raw silk, for boot stockings; large and strong.

In my last from Elkton I mentioned the want of a Carpet for my parlour at Mount Vernon;—and observed that as the furniture was blue, the ground or principal flowers in it ought to be blue also;—& that if Wilton Carpeting was not much dearer than Scotch I should prefer it. Mrs. Washington says there is a kind different from both much in use (Russia) if not dearer or but little more so than the former I would

have it got. The Room is about 18 feet Square, and the Carpet should have a suitable border if to be had. This letter *may* get to your hands on Tuesday morning and on the Post of Wednesday a line or two informing when the goods will be on board, & the Vessel will sail, will be very agreeable to

My dear Sir

Your Affectionate friend & Servt.

No. 78.

MOUNT VERNON 25th. Mar. 1797.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 20th. Inst. with the Bill of lading for the Goods in the Sloop Salem,—and another letter of the 15th. are both received; and I hope this will find you safely arrived in the Federal City.

I have got painters at work in order to prepare my rooms for the furniture which is expected but I find I have begun at the wrong end, for some joiner's work (of the deficiency of which I was ignorant before it was examined) ought to have preceded theirs as the fixing of the chimney pieces ought also to do. The first I have engaged, but cannot on enquiry find that a Skilful hand is to be had in Alexandria to execute the latter. I would thank you therefore for engaging one, if to be had, in the Federal City or George Town, to be here on Monday or Tuesday at farthest, as my work will be at a stand without. To prevent imposition & to avoid disputes, I would prefer employing the artisan by the day. The work *immediately* foreseen and which must be done without delay, is to refix the marble Chimney piece in the parlour, which is almost falling out, to fix the new one (expected from Philadelphia) in the small dining Room; to remove the one now there, into what is called the School room,—to fix the grate which is coming

round in the large dining room;—and to give some repairs to the steps; which (like most things else I have looked into since I have been at home) are sadly out of repair.

Tis possible either of the Commissioners or Capt. Hoben could point out a proper Character, as they have had to do with the best workmen; and 'tis possible, but I do not think it very probable, that Cornelius (my old servant) might be competent to do it. Two things however are necessary—viz—skill & dispatch. Our best regards are presented to all with you,—and I am your Sincere friend & Affecte. Servant

P. S.

If Cornelius had knowledge in practice or theory sufficient for the job,—I should be disposed to give him a preference;—first, because I am acquainted with his temper and industry;—and 2dly. because I foresee many other things, in his line, that must be done as fast as I can accomplish them; by engaging a workman upon moderate terms, make Bricks—or raise stone & procure lime.

The Winds have been favorable for Capt. Elkins but we see no thing of his Sloop yet. As soon as it arrives I will let you know, as it would be very pleasing to me to have you here at that time.

Yrs. &c.

No. 79.

Mount Vernon 10th. July 1797.

My dear Sir,

If nothing happens more than I foresee to prevent it,—I propose to be in the Federal City on Monday or Tuesday in next week; but it will depend on your being there. I request therefore to be informed by the Post if this will be the case; or whether business at that time will call you from it.

When that far I shall extend my ride to the little and great falls of the River,—at the last of which I have not been these eight or nine Years.

I am Your Affectionate

No. 80.

31st. July 1797.

Dear Sir,

I am alone at *present*, and shall be glad to see you this evening.

Unless some one pops in, unexpectedly—Mrs. Washington & myself will do what I believe has not been done within the last twenty Years by us,—that is to set down to dinner by ourselves. I am

Your affectionate

No. 81.

Mount Vernon, 10th. Septr. 1797.

Dear Sir,

I have almost determined to build the Walls of the house intended for a Distillery (at my Mill) of Stone, for the sake of expedition, as the Carpenters' work can be carried on at the same time. Having this in contemplation I would thank you for informing at what price foundation stone from the falls could be delivered to a Boat as near to my Mill as the Vessel could get & whether any person would undertake the delivery there accordingly.*

When I was last at your house Capt. Prescott was landing a number of Shingles. Pray inform me if he has any now for sale? the length & average breadth, and the price? Is Cornelius disengaged? Could he be had to assist in my building? Could any other be

obtained and on what terms? In much haste dinner waiting

I am Yrs.

* I shall use free stone from my own Quarry for the building above the foundation.

No. 82.

MOUNT VERNON 11th. Septr. 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 8th. inst. was given to me yesterday by Mr. John Bassett.

If you had intimated a wish to Lease my River farm, a month or two ago, all matters might have been with ease arranged before this; but as I had heard nothing in that time from the English farmer who had been in Treaty for it, I had relinquished the idea of letting it next year; & in consequence have engaged Stuart,—Sown the principal part of my winter grain,—and made all the necessary dispositions for the ensuing Season. I do not therefore, at this moment, see how they can be dispenced with. If upon further reflection on the subject, and a consultation with Mr. Anderson, the measure can be gone into, without involving difficulties, which cannot be easily surmounted, you shall hear further from me on this subject—and learn more minutely the details of my Plan, and the conditions on which the farm will be let;—for these will be specific, and exacted from the Tenant whomsoever he may be.

If that Farm is not rented next year, there is nearly a moral certainty (if I am alive) it will be so the Year after;—my object being to reduce my income to a certainty; and to get relieved in my latter years (if I have any to pass) of the trouble and perplexities incident to such an estate as mine is, from the constitution of it.

Although nothing (except the Rent P. Acre) is definitely fixed in my *own* mind relative to the precise terms on which I propose to lease my Farms,—yet, to give you a more comprehensive view of my ideas in these respects, I enclose you a printed advertisement of them; published near two years since; my thoughts upon the subject at that period; and Mr. Anderson's sketch of a lease, when application was made for River farm, by the person before alluded to; that you may gather, from thence the outlines of my views and intention; and more particularly, that you might not be under a mistake with regard to the Fisheries (which has always been considered as distinct objects although they might be united in the same lease) the Stipes of old field without the present fences;—and the wood land;—not an acre of which will be suffered to be cleared, for the purpose of cultivation (the swamps and Pocosons on the Creek and River excepted) nor a stick carried off the premises for any purpose whatsoever;—nor used thereon except in the manner,—and for the purposes which are mentioned in one or more of the enclosed papers.

After perusing the manuscript ones I beg they may be returned by the Post, as I have no Copy of either. With great esteem & regard, I am dear Sir

Your Affecte.

No. 83.

*Mount Vernon 24th. Oct. 1797.

Dear Sir,

You ask what is absolutely out of my power to comply with, unless I was to place myself exactly in the situation you represent yourself to be in (without converting Bank stock into Cash, which I am not inclined to do)—that is, unprepared to face my own engage-

ments,—which for Wheat, Rye, Workmens wages &ca. &ca. are hourly coming upon me, & expected. Three thousand dollars (without going into a correct examination of the acct.) is more than I have in the Bank of Alexandria and (for running calls) in my Desk.

Had you asked for a thousand dollars of these, or if that sum would answer any valuable purpose I would, inconvenient as it might prove to me, give a check on the Bank. Your letter being just presented, company here, & dinner ready, I can only add that I am Yr. Obed. & Affecte.

* From Washington's letter-press copy in The New York Public Library.

No. 84.

MOUNT VERNON, 10th. Novr. 1797.

Dear Sir,

I have received both of your letters dated Yesterday, & thank you for the information given in them. If Mr. Liston's arrangement to proceed from Alexandria to this place by Water appeared *to you* to proceed from the want of Carriages (for I do not know in what manner he got to the City) say to him that you are sure mine would attend upon him at any hour he would name at that place to bring as many of them as it would contain to Mount Vernon. This however, as the presumption is that I am unacquainted with his intentions and movements, must go as from yourself.

Yours always & Affecte.

No. 85.

MOUNT VERNON 26th. April 1798.

Dear Sir,

If Stuart can spare a Stear, you may keep the one you got from thence, and pay for him in kind.

Fishing hitherto has been very unsuccessful at my landing—more were caught last night and this morning (since I have not heard from thence) than in the same space at any time before since it Commenced, & unless it continues for some days my expences will not be reimbursed.

Have you written to Cornelius? What answer? It is necessary for me to know whether I am to depend upon him or not. I am glad to hear the boys are well. My love to them. I am

Your Affectionate

No. 86.

MOUNT VERNON 22d. July, 1798.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry to learn by Mr. Dalton's family (now here) that your ague and fever stick by you. If not such as to confine you, your Coming & remaining here while his visit lasts wd. be a kindness to me and company for him; many matters pressing upon me at this time, that cannot, without much inconvenience be postponed, will not suffer me to pay him those attentions I could wish.

I am Your friend &
Affecte. Servt.

No. 87.

MOUNT VERNON 2d. Augt. 1798.

Dear Sir,

I was glad to hear by Charles that you were much better, than when we saw you last. If you have missed the ague care, and Bark, is necessary to prevent a relapse; & this prudence requires.

Monday next being the day fixed on by the Con-

stitution of the Potomac Company for their Annual meeting, and as you seem resolved to relinquish your present office as President,—I wish you would turn your thoughts attentively to the situation of it, and revolve seriously on characters fit, and proper to supply the places, of those who perhaps ought to, as well as those who will quit the Directorship; that our struggles in that interesting and expencive concern—the labour of years, may not end in disgrace & loss.

The little leisure I had *before* my late appointment (from visits,—my necessary rides—& other occurrencies) to overhaul, arrange & separate papers of real, from those of little or no value, is now, by that event, so much encroached upon by personal & written applications for Offices, & other matters incidental to the situation of the Commander in Chief, that without assistance I must abandon all idea of accomplishing this necessary work before I embark in new scenes, which will render them more voluminous, & of course more difficult,—a measure which would be extremely irksome to me to submit to, especially as it respects my accts.—which are yet in a jumble—my earnest wish and desire being when I quit the stage of human action, to leave *all matters* in such a situation, as to give as little trouble as possible to those who will have the management of them thereafter.

Under this view of my situtation,—which is far from being an agreeable one;—and at times fills me with deep concern—when I perceive so little prospect of complete extrication—I have written to the Secretary of War to be informed whether (as my taking the field is contingent, & no pay or emolument will accrue to myself untill then) I am at liberty to appoint my Secretary immediately; who shall be allowed his pay and *Forage* from the moment he joins me. If he answers in the affirmative *on those terms*, can you do this?

Have you heard from the master of the Academy at Charlestown? At any rate my opinion is you had better, with the least possible delay get the boys fixed *permanently* at some good School,—they will otherwise loose precious moments. Let me hear from you. I am in haste but always

Your Affecttionate

No. 88.

Thursday night
30th. Augt. 1798.

Dear Sir,

I have, at length, received the President's answer (through the Secretary of War) to my request to be allowed a Secretary, who gives it as his opinion that I have an undoubted right to one, or all of my military family, if I find it convenient, and that their pay &c. will be allowed.

And the Secretary having thrown a *mass* of Papers upon me which I have not looked into (being this moment arrived) I should be glad if you would now come & take your station.

Yrs. always & Affectly.

No. 89.

Mount Vernon, March 18th. 1799.

Dear Sir,

I recollect no business of sufficient importance to require your return hither, sooner than Doctr. Thorn-

ton conceives will allow him sufficient time to effect your cure. Were the case however otherwise, far would it be from me, to request this return before so desirable an object is accomplished. I do not therefore wish you to hurry it on account of my business.

Charles takes a horse up for Washington, which I pray may be sent to Mr. Laws—or wherever he is.

Mrs. Washington & myself are as you left us, & join in best wishes for Doctor Thornton's success in your Case. With very great esteem, & compliments to enquiring friends I am

Your Affectionate

No. 90.

MOUNT VERNON 26th. March 1799.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 24th. Inst. enclosing one from Major Rivardi was delivered to me last night.

It gives me pleasure that you are recovering from your lameness, and repeat the wish contained in my last that you would use the means for perfect restoration, and remain as long with Doctr. Thornton as he may conceive advisable.

With respect to the letter from Major Rivardi, it would be proper to send it, by my direction, to Genl. Hamilton that he may issue such orders in consequence thereof as to him shall appear to suit the occasion; informing the Major thereof. Refering him to my former letter for the mode of his communications in future.

Mrs. Washington has had (it is now better) a very bad Cold in other respects the family are as well as usu-

al, & unite with me in good wishes for you & Complts. to Doctr. Thornton's family.

I am Yr. Sincere friend &
Affecte. Servt.

P. S.

If you should happen to see Mr. Blagden, pray ask him when he expects to be in mortar—in other words, when he expects to lay the foundation stone.

No. 91.

Mount Vernon 31st. March 1799.

Dear Sir,

If perchance you should happen to see Mr. Blagden before you leave the City, be so good as to get from him a statement of the preparations for my buildings therein. I do not find by inquiry of Mr. Lewis, that there is much show of this on the ground! I advised strongly that the foundation stone and lime, should be laid in last Autumn, when the Roads were good;—had this been done the Work might have commenced (without the the hazard of disappointment) with the opening of Spring. Now, bad Roads, & multiplied excuses may be a plea for the backwardness of the Work.

I pray you also to enquire if there be any advice of the arrival of the Ship Hamilton (on board of which I had six Hhds. of Tobo.) at London. We all unite in best wishes for you—and I am Your Affecte friend

Do not forget my Gardener's
Dictionary at Mr. Laws.

A TRUE COPY, MADE AT MRS. LEAR'S REQUEST, FROM THE DIARY OF COL. LEAR:

Saturday, Decr. 14th. 1799.

This day being marked by an event which will be memorable in the History of America, and perhaps of the World, I shall give a particular statement of it, to which I was an eye witness—

The last illness and death of General Washington

On Thursday Decr. 12th. the General rode out to his farms about ten o'clock, and did not return home till past three. Soon after he went out the weather became very bad, rain, hail, and snow falling alternately with a cold wind: When he came in, I carried some letters to him to frank, intending to send them to the Post-Office in the evening. He franked the letters; but said the Weather was too bad to send a servant to the Office that evening. I observed to him that I was afraid he had got wet; he said no, his great Coat had kept him dry; but his neck appeared to be wet, and the snow was hanging upon his hair. He came to dinner (which had been Waiting for him) without changing his dress. In the evening he appeared as well as usual.

A heavy fall of snow took place on Friday (which prevented the General from riding out as usual. He had taken cold (undoubtedly from being so much exposed the day before) and complained of a sore throat: he however went out in the afternoon into the ground between the House and the River to mark some trees

which were to be cut down in the improvement of that spot. He had a Hoarseness which increased in the evening; but he made light of it. In the evening the Papers were brought from the Post Office, and he sat in the Parlour, with Mrs. Washington & myself reading them till about nine o'clock—when Mrs. W. went up into Mrs. Lewis's room, who was confined in Child Bed, and left the General & myself reading the papers. He was very cheerful and when he met with anything interesting or entertaining, he wd. read it aloud as well as his hoarseness would permit him. He requested me to read to him the debates of the Virginia Assembly on the election of a Senator and a Governor;—and on hearing Mr. Madison's observations respecting Mr. Monroe, he appeared much affected and spoke with some degree of asperity on the subject, which I endeavoured to moderate, as I always did on such occasions. On his retiring I observed to him that he had better take something to remove his cold. He answered no; "you "know I never take any thing for a cold. Let it "go as it came."

Between two & three o'clock on Saturday morning, he awoke Mrs. Washington, and told her he was very unwell, and had had an ague. She observed that he could scarcely speak and breathed with difficulty; and would have got up to call a Servant; but he would not permit her lest she should take cold. As soon as the day appeared, the Woman (Caroline) went into the Room to make a fire, and Mrs. Washington sent her immediately to call me. I got up, put on my clothes as quickly as possible, and went to his Chamber. Mrs. Washington was then up, and related to me his being taken ill as before stated. I found the General breathing with difficulty, and hardly able to utter a word intelligibly. He desired that Mr. Rawlins (one of the overseers) might be sent for to bleed him before the

Dr. could arrive. I dispatched a servant instantly for Rawlins, and another for Dr. Craik, and returned again to the General's Chamber, where I found him in the same situation as I had left him. A mixture of Molasses, Vinegar & butter was prepared to try its effects in the throat; but he could not swallow a drop. Whenever he attempted it he appeared to be distressed, convulsed and almost suffocated. Rawlins came in soon after sun rise, and prepared to bleed him. When the arm was ready the General observing that Rawlins appeared to be agitated, said, as well as he could speak "*Don't be afraid.*" And after the incision was made, he observed, "*The orifice is not large enough.*" However the blood ran pretty freely. Mrs. Washington not knowing whether bleeding was proper or not in the General's situation, begged that much might not be taken from him, lest it should be injurious, and desired me to stop it; but when I was about to untie the string the General put up his hand to prevent it, and as soon as he could speak, said—"*More, more.*" Mrs. Washington being still very uneasy lest too much blood should be taken, it was stopped after taking about half a pint. Finding that no relief was obtained from bleeding, and that nothing would go down the throat, I proposed bathing it externally with salvolatila, which was done; and in the operation, which was with the hand, and in the gentlest manner, he observed "*tis very sore.*" A piece of flannel dip'd in salvolatila was put around his neck, and his feet bathed in warm water; but without affording any relief.

In the mean time, before Dr. Craik arrived Mrs. Washington desired me to send for Dr. Brown of Post Tobacco, whom Dr. Craik had recommended to be called, if any case should ever occur that was seriously alarming. I dispatched a messenger (Cyrus) immediately for Dr. Brown (between 8 & 9 o'clock). Dr.

Craik came in soon after, and upon examining the General, he put a blister of Cantharides on the throat, took some more blood from him, and had a gargle of Vinegar & sage tea, and ordered some Vinegar and hot water for him to inhale the steam which he did;—but in attempting to use the gargle he was almost suffocated. When the gargle came from his throat some phlegm followed it, and he attempted to Cough, which the Doctor encouraged him to do as much as possible; but he could only attempt it. About eleven o'clock Dr. Craik requested that Dr. Dick might be sent for, as he feared Dr. Brown would not come in time. A messenger was accordingly dispatched for him. About this time the General was bled again. No effect however was produced by it, and he remained in the same state, unable to swallow anything. A blister was administered about 12 o'clock, which produced an evacuation; but caused no alteration in his complaint.

Dr. Dick came in about 3 o'clock, and Dr. Brown arrived soon after. Upon Dr. Dick's seeing the General and consulting a few minutes with Dr. Craik he was bled again; the blood came very slow, was thick, and did not produce any symptoms of fainting. Dr. Brown came into the chamber soon after; and upon feeling the General's pulse &c. the Physicians went out together. Dr. Craik returned soon after. The General could now swallow a little. Calomel & tarter em. were administered, but without any effect.

About half past 4 o'clock he desired me to call Mrs. Washington to his bed side, when he requested her to go down into his room, and take from his desk two Wills which she would find there, and bring them to him, which she did. Upon looking at them he gave her one, which he observed was useless, as being superseded by the other, and desired her to burn it, which she did, and took the other and put it into her Closet.

After this was done, I returned to his bed side, and took his hand. He said to me, "*I find I am going, my breath can not last long. I believed from the first that the disorder would prove fatal. Do you arrange and record all my late military letters and papers. Arrange my accounts and settle my books, as you know more about them than any one else, and let Mr. Rawlins finish recording my other letters which he has begun.*" I told him this should be done. He then asked if I recollected anything which it was essential for him to do, as he had but a very short time to continue among us. I told him I could recollect nothing; but that I hoped he was not so near his end; he observed smiling, that he certainly was, and that as it was the debt that all must pay, he looked to the event with perfect resignation.

In the course of the afternoon he appeared to be in great pain and distress, from the difficulty of breathing, and frequently changed his position in the bed. On these occasions I lay upon the bed, and endeavoured to raise him, and turn him with as much care as possible. He appeared penetrated with gratitude for my attentions, & often said, I am afraid I shall fatigue you too much, and upon my assuring him that I could feel nothing but a wish to give him ease, he replied, "*Well it is a debt we must pay to each other, and I hope when you want aid of this kind you will find it.*"

He asked when Mr. Lewis & Washington Custis would return, (they were in New Kent) I told him about the 20th. of the month.

About 5 o'clock Dr. Craik came again into the room & upon going to the bed side the Genl. said to him, *Doctor, I die hard; but I am not afraid to go; I believed from my first attack that I should not survive it; my breath can not last long.*

The Doctor pressed his hand, but could not utter a

word. He retired from the bed side, & sat by the fire absorbed in grief.

Between 5 & 6 o'clk Dr. Dick & Dr. Brown came into the room, and with Dr. Craik went to the bed; when Dr. Craik asked him if he could sit up in the bed? He held out his hand & I raised him up. He then said to the Physicians, "I feel myself going, I thank you for "your attentions; but I pray you to take no more "trouble about me, let me go off quietly, I can not last "long." They found that all which had been done was without effect; he laid down again and all retired except Dr. Craik. He continued in the same situation, uneasy & restless, but without complaining; frequently asking what hour it was. When I helped him to move at this time he did not speak, but looked at me with strong expressions of gratitude.

About 8 o'clock the Physicians came again into the room and applied blisters and cataplasms of wheat bran to his legs and feet; after which they went out (except Dr. Craik) without a ray of hope. I went out about this time and wrote a line to Mr. Law & Mr. Peter, requesting them to come with their wives (Mrs. Washington's Granddaughters) as soon as possible to Mt. Vernon.

About ten o'clk he made several attempts to speak to me before he could effect it, at length he said,— "*I am just going. Have me decently buried; and do not let my body be put into the Vault in less than three days after I am dead.*" I bowed assent, for I could not speak. He then looked at me again and said, "*Do you understand me?* I replied "Yes." "*Tis well*" said he.

About ten minutes before he expired (which was between ten & eleven o'clk) his breathing became easier; he lay quietly;—he withdrew his hand from mine, and felt his own pulse. I saw his countenance change. I spoke to Dr. Craik who sat by the fire;—he came to

Photograph by Leet Bros.

WASHINGTON'S BED-ROOM, IN WHICH HE DIED

This is said to be the bed that was in the room at the time of his death.

the bed side. The General's hand fell from his wrist— I took it in mine and put it into my bosom. Dr. Craik put his hands over his eyes and he expired without a struggle or a sigh!

While we were fixed in silent grief, Mrs. Washington (who was sitting at the foot of the bed) asked with a firm & collected voice, *Is he gone?* I could not speak, but held up my hand as a signal that he was no more. *'Tis well*, said she in the same voice, "*All is now over I shall soon follow him! I have no more trials to pass through!*"

OCCURRENCES NOT NOTED IN THE PRECEDING NARRATIVE.

The General's servant *Christopher* was in the room through the day; and in the afternoon the General directed him to sit down, as he had been standing almost the whole day; he did so.

About 8 o'clock in the morning he expressed a desire to get up. His clothes were put on and he was led to a chair by the fire. He found no relief from this position, and lay down again about 10 o'clk. About 5 P. M. he was helped up again & after sitting about half an hour desired to be undressed & put in bed; which was done.

During his whole illness he spoke but seldom, and with great difficulty; and in so low & broken a voice as at times hardly to be understood. His patience, fortitude, & resignation never forsook him for a moment. In all his distress he uttered not a sigh, nor a

complaint; always endeavouring (from a sense of duty as it appeared) to take what was offered him, and to do as he was desired by the Physicians.

At the time of his decease Dr. Craik and myself were in the situation before mentioned; Mrs. Washington was sitting near the foot of the bed. Christopher was standing by the bedside. Caroline Molly & Charlotte were in the room standing near the door. Mrs. Forbes the House keeper, was frequently in the room during the day and evening.

As soon as Dr. Craik could speak after the distressing scene was closed, he desired one of the servants to ask the Gentln. below to come upstairs. When they came to the bedside; I kissed the cold hand which I had held to my bosom; laid it down, & went to the other end of the room; where I was for some time lost in profound grief; until aroused by Christopher desiring me to take care of the General's keys and other things which were taken out of his pockets; and which Mrs. Washington directed him to give to me: I wrapped them in the General's handkerchief, & took them with me to my room.

About 12 o'clk the Corpse was brought down stairs, and laid out in the large room.

Sunday Decr. 15th. 1800.

The above statement so far as I can recollect is correct.

Jas. Craik.

Sunday Decr. 15th. 1799.

Fair Weather.

Mrs. Washington sent for me in the Morning and desired I would send up to Alxa. and have a Coffin made :

which I did. Doctor Dick measured the body, the dimensions of which were as follows

In length	5	feet	3½	inchs.	exact.
Across the shoulders	1	"	9	"	"
Across the elbows	2	"	"	"	"

After breakfast I gave Dr. Dick & Dr. Brown forty dollars each, which sum Dr. Craik advised as very proper; and they left us after breakfast.

I wrote letters to the following persons informing them of the late melancholy event.

The President of the United States
General Hamilton
Genl. Pinckney
Bushrod Washington
Col. W. A. Washington
Lawrence Lewis
G. W. P. Custis
Geo. S. Washington
Saml. Washington
Colo. Ball
Capt. Hammond—also to

John Lewis, desiring him to inform his Brothers, George, Robert & Howells.

The letters were sent by the following conveyances—

To the President, Genl. Hamilton, & John Lewis by the Mail.

To Col. W. A. Washington, to & Bushrod Washington by express to Colo. Blackburn, requesting him to forward them by the same conveyance.

To L. Lewis, & G. W. P. Custis by express. To General Pinckney, Col. Ball, Saml. Washington, G. S. Washington, & Capt. Hammond, by my own servant Charles, with my riding horse.

Mrs. Stuart was sent for in the Morning. About 10 o'clk, Mr. Thos. Peter came down; and about two, Mr. and Mrs. Law to whom I had written on Saturday Eveng. Dr. Thornton came down with Mr. Law. Dr. Craik tarried all day & all night.

In the evening I consulted with Mr. Law, Mr. Peter & Dr. Craik on fixing a day for depositing the Body in the Vault. I wished the ceremony to be postponed until the last of the week, to give time to some of the General's relations to be here: But Dr. Craik & Dr. Thornton gave it decidedly as their opinion, that considering the disorder of which the General died, being of an inflamatory nature, it would not be proper, nor perhaps safe, to keep the body so long; and therefore Wednesday was fixed upon for the funeral, to allow a day (Thursday) in case the weather should be unfavorable on Wednesday.

Monday, Decr. 16th. 1799.

I directed the people to open the family Vault, clean away the rubbish from about it, and make everything decent. Ordered a door to be made to the Vault, instead of closing it again with brick, as had been the custom. Engaged Mr. Inglis and Mr. McMunn to have a Mahogany Coffin made, lined with lead, in which the body was to be deposited.

Dr. Craik, Mr. Peter, & Dr. Thornton left us after breakfast. Mrs. Stuart & her daughters came in the afternoon. Mr. Anderson went to Alxa. to get a number of things preparatory for the funeral. Mourng. was ordered for the Family Domestics and Overseers.

Having received information from Alexa. that the Militia, Freemasons &c. were determined to show their respect to the General's Memory by attending his body to the Grave, I directed provision to be prepared for a large number of people, as some refreshment would be

expected by them. Mr. Robert Hamilton wrote me a letter informing that a Schooner of his wd. be off Mount Vernon to fire Minute guns when the body was carrying to the grave. Gave notice of the time fixed for the funeral to the following persons by Mrs. Washington's desire, viz—Mr. Mason & family—Mr. Peake & family—Mr. Nickols & family—Mr. McCarty & family—Miss McCarty—Mr. & Mrs. McClanahan—Lord Fairfax & family—Mr. Triplet & family—Mr. Anderson & family—Mr. Diggs, Mr. Cockburn & family—Mr. Massey & family—Mr. R. West. I wrote also to the Revd. Mr. Davis, to read the service.

Tuesday—Decr. 17th. 1799.

Every preparation for the mournful ceremony was making. Mr. Diggs came here in the forenoon. Also Mr. Stewart, Adjutant to the Alexa. Regimt. to view the ground for the procession.

About one o'clock the Coffin was brought from Alexa. in a stage. Mr. Ingle & Mr. McMunn accompanied it. Also Mr. Grater with a shroud. The Body was laid in the Coffin—at which time I cut off some of the hair.

The Mahogany Coffin was lined with lead, soddered at the joints—and a cover of lead to be soddered on after the body should be in the Vault. The whole was put into a case lined & covered with black Cloth.

Wednesday Decr. 18th. 1799.

About eleven o'clk numbers of people began to assemble to attend the funeral, which was intended to have been at twelve, but as a great part of the Troop expected could not get down in time, it did not take place till three.

Eleven pieces of Artillery were brot. from Alexa. and

a Schooner belonging to Mr. R. Hamilton came down & lay off Mt. Vernon to fire Minute guns.

About 3 o'clock the procession began to move. The arrangements of the procession were made by Colonels Little, Simms & Deneale, and Dr. Dick. The Pall holders were Colonels Little, Simms, Payne, Gilpin, Ramsey and Marsteler. Coll. Blackburn preceded the Corpse. Coll. Deneale marched with the Military. The procession moved out of the Gate at the left Wing of the House, and proceeded round in front of the lawn, & down to the Vault on the right wing of the House. The Procession as follows

The Troops, Horse & foot
Music playing a solemn Dirge
The Clergy—viz. The Revd.
Mr. Davis
Mr. Muir
Mr. Moffatt
& Mr. Addison

The General's horse, with his saddle, Holster, Pistols &c. led by his two grooms, Cyrus & Wilson in black.

The Body borne by the Free Masons & Officers.

Principal Mourners—viz
Mrs. Stuart, & Mrs. Law
Misses Nancy & Sally Stuart
Miss Fairfax & Miss Dennison
Mr. Law, & Mr. Peter
Mr. Lear & Dr. Craik.
Lord Fairfax & Ferdd. Fairfax.

Lodge No. 23.
Corporation of Alexandria.

All other persons preceded by
Mr. Anderson & the Overseers.

When the Body arrived at the Vault the Revd. Mr.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF WASHINGTON

Procession along High Street, as seen from the Country Market Place, Philadelphia.

Davis read the service & pronounced a short extempore speech.

The Masons performed their ceremonies, & the Body was deposited in the Vault. ! ! ! !

After the Ceremony the Company returned to the house where they took some refreshment, & retired in good order. The remains of the provisions were distributed among the blacks.

Mr. Peter, Dr. Craik & Dr. Thornton tarried here all night.

When the Ceremony was over I retired to my room (leaving to Mr. Law & Mr. Diggs the care of the Company) to give a loose to those feelings which I had been able to keep under control, while I found it necessary for me to give a personal attention to the preparations for interring the body of my deceased friend.

What those feelings were is not to be told, if it were even possible to describe!

Monday Decr. 23d. 1799.

Employed as yesterday.

Tuesday Decr. 24th. 1799.

Spent the day in looking over & arranging papers in the General's Study.

Wednesday Decr. 25th. 1799.

I this day sent to Alexa. for the Plumber to come down & close the leaden Coffin containing the General's Body, as Judge Washington had arrived, and did not incline to see the remains. The Plumbers came. I went with them to the Tomb—I took a last look—a last farewell of that face, which still appeared unaltered. I attended the Closing of the Coffin—and beheld for the last time that face wh. shall be seen no more here; but *wh. I hope to meet in Heaven.*

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS REVEALING THE GREAT STATESMAN'S MODE OF LIFE AT MT. VERNON

PHILADELPHIA, June 30th., 1792.

Sir,

I little expected that I should have had occasion, at this time (after the pointed assurances you gave me more than three years ago, of discharging what was due to me, fully) to remind you that I have received only Three hundred and eighty pds. of the balance; and to ask what I am to expect from you in the future.–

I delayed from day to day while you were in this City (until it was too late) to apply to you on this subject, in hope, of an expectation that you would not have left town without mentioning it yourself.

Before I apply to the Executors of Colonels Tayloe & Thornton who were securities for the money loaned to your deceased father, John Mercer Esqr. I will await the receipt of your answer to the letter which I hope will be given as soon as you can make it convenient.—

It has been of little avail hitherto, to inform you of the causes of my want of this money, although in more instances than one, I have done it with the utmost truth and candour; should I say anything further to you on this head now, were I not in a manner compelled to declare that from an occurrence which did not exist before have a call upon me, for a considerable sum, in a few months; against which it is *indispensably necessary* that I should be provided.—

I am—Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servant

G. WASHINGTON.

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER.

PHILADELPHIA, Augt. 26th, 1793.

Sir,

I intended to have written to you somewhat sooner, but business of a public nature and pressing, prevented it until now.—

Although I have conviction in my own mind, that a hundred guineas pr. annum is more than my Mount Vernon Estate will enable me to give the Superintendent of it; yet, the satisfaction (when one is at a considerable distance from property they possess, under circumstances which does not allow much thought thereon) of having a person in whom confidence can be placed as a manager, is such, as to dispose me to allow you that sum; provided other matters can be adjusted to the mutual convenience, and satisfaction of both parties.

As you were about to depart in the Stage when I saw you (and which I knew could not wait) I did not go so much into detail as was necessary to place an agreement upon a basis to avoid mis-conception, and unpleasant disputes thereafter; and besides altho' you would be upon standing wages, which in the opinion of some would make it immaterial (these being paid) what sort of an estate you overlooked; yet my opinion of a sensible and a discreet man is, that before he would finally engage he would view the estate himself, and decide from that view, whether it possessed such advantages as would enable him to acquire honour as well as profit from the management thereof;—whether he could make it profitable to his Employer from its local situation;—the plans proposed; or the condition in which it might appear to him. Whether the part of the Country, the accomodations, the water, &ct. were to his liking;—with other considerations which will admit no evidence equal to that of one's own observation, to decide ultimately on what to resolve.—

Having stated a fact, and given my ideas of what I

suppose would be most agreeable for you to do, I shall add, that if nothing more than I foresee at present should happen, I expect to be at Mount Vernon about the 20th. of next month, for a stay of 8 or 10 days.—If then you are disposed to undertake my business, and wish to see the nature of it, and the present state of it; I should be glad to see you there about that time, when every necessary arrangement may be made if we should finally agree.

From Baltimore to Mount Vernon by the way of the Federal City, George Town, and Alexandria, is 59 measured Miles:—and from Annapolis to the same place, crossing Potomac at Alexandria, is 45 Miles; but it might be reduced to less than 40 if there was a ferry opposite to my house.—From Baltimore to Alexandria (through the above places) the regular Stages pass; and set out every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from the former, reaching the latter the same day; from whence a horse could be hired without difficulty, I believe, to carry you to my house, distant 9 miles. I mention these things for your information, in case you should determine to go there.

If you resolve to meet me at Mount Vernon, give me notice thereof immediately; and if business or any other cause should render it impracticable for me to be there, at the time, I will inform you, soas to prevent your setting out.—

I informed you at our meeting, that I had eight or ten Negro Carpenters under the care of a worthless White man, whom I had forborn to turn away on account of the peculiar circumstances attending his family.—But I suffer so much from his negligence;—By his bad qualities;—and bad examples; that I find it indispensably necessary to get some other workman to supply his place.—If it should be your lot to superintend my affairs, your own ease, as well as my interest,

would induce you to look out for a successor to him, against New Years day;—if not, and you could recommend a proper character for this business, it would be rendering me an acceptable service to do it. I am Sir—

Your Hble. Servt.

Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce.

Mount Vernon, Octr. 6th. 1793

Mr. Pearce,

Enclosed is a copy of our agreement with my signature to it.—

Since you were here, Mrs. Washington the Widow of my Nephew, who formerly lived at this place, has resolved as soon as we leave it, to remove to her Brother's in the lower part of this State, and will not, I believe, return to reside at it again.—This will make it more convenient and agreeable, both for yourself and me, that you should live the Winter, at least, at my Mansion house; as it will allow more time for my carpenters to provide for Mr. Crow, and to put the place he lives at in better repair than it now is for yourself, if there should be occasion for you to go there;—and this too, under your own inspection.—

The right wing to my dwelling house as you possibly may have noticed, and heard called the Hall (being kept altogether for the use of Strangers) has two good rooms below (with tiled floors) and as many above, all with fire places.—This will accomodate your family (being a larger house) better than Crow's; and by being here, you will have the use of my Kitchen, the Cook belonging thereto, Frank the House Servant, a boy also in the House.—The Stable, Garden, &ct., &ct., without any additional expense to me—at the same time that it will, by placing you in the centre of the business, ease you of much trouble; for otherwise, the frequent

calls for Tools, Nails, Iron, &ct., from the Store—and the particular attention which matters abt. the Mansion house will require, would have occasioned you many an inconvenient ride here, the necessity for which will be entirely superceded, as your mornings and evenings will, of course, be spent where your presence will be most wanting.—

As I am never sparing (with proper aeconomy) in furnishing my Farms with any, and every kind of Tool and Implement that is calculated to do good and neat work, I not only authorize you to bring the kind of ploughs you were speaking to me about, but any others, the utility of which you have proved from your own experience.—particularly a kind of hand rake which Mr. Stuart tells me are used on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in lieu of Hoes for Corn at a certain state of its growth—and a Scythe and Cradle different from those used with us, and with which the grain is laid much better.—In short I shall begrudge no reasonable expense that will contribute to the improvement and neatness of my Farms;—for nothing pleases me better than to see them in good order, and everything trim, handsome, and thriving about them;—nor nothing hurts me more than to find them otherwise, and the tools and implements laying wherever they were last used, exposed to injuries from Rain, sun, &ct.—

I hope you will endeavor to arrange your own concerns in such a manner as to be here as much before the time agreed on as you conveniently can.—Great advantages to me will result from this, by putting the business in a good train before the Fall operations are closed by the frosts of Winter, and all improvements are thereby at an end for that season. On the other hand, inconveniences to yourself may arise from delay on account of the Weather—Navigation, &ct; there having been instances of this River's closing with Ice

several days before Christmas which might prevent the removal of yr things in time.—That your living at the Mansion may be attended with no more expence to you than if you had gone to the other place (at which Crow now lives) on account of Gentlemen, who now and then call here out of curiosity—as they are passing through the Country—I shall lay in such things as will be necessary for this purpose, and the occasions (which are but rare) may require.—

I expect to leave this place about the 28th. of the Month for Philadelphia, or the neighborhood of it; any letter therefore which shall arrive before that time will find me here—afterwards it will go to Philadelphia where it had better be directed.

I am your friend and Servant

Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce.

Mount Vernon 27th. Oct. 1793

Mr. Pearce,

Your letter of the 19th came duly to hand.—Tomorrow I leave this for Philadelpa or the vicinity of it; where, when you have occasion to write to me, direct your letters.—

As you seemed to be in doubt whether a proper character could be engaged in ye part of the Country you live in, to look after my Negro Carpenters; and (having much work to do in their way, and not being willing to leave matters at an uncertainty) I have engaged the person who superintends them at present to look after them another year.—He is a good workman himself, and can be active; but has little authority (I ought to have said command, for I have given him full authority) over those who are entrusted to him—and he is fond of drink, tho' somewhat reformed in this respect, I place no great confidence in him.—He

has, however, promised so to conduct himself, as that there shall be no cause for complaint—I thought it was better, therefore, to engage him, than to run any hazard.—I have engaged no person to look after the house People, Ditchers &ct in place of the one now occupied in that business; and unless a very active and spirited man could be had, it will scarcely be essential while you reside at the Mansion house yourself.—The old Man that is employed in this business is, I believe, honest, sober, well meaning, and in some things knowing; but he wants activity and spirit;—and from not being accustomed to Negros, in addition thereto; they are under no sort of awe of him—of course do as they please.—His wages are low, Twenty pounds pr ann. only—under this statement of the case you may do as shall seem best to yourself.—If he is to go, he ought to know it seasonably:—his time is up at Christmas; and nothing betwn us has past either as to his going, or staying.

I shall, before you remove, or by the time you may arrive at Mount Vernon, give you full directions, and my ideas upon the several points which may, between this and then, occur to me.—In all things else you must pursue your own judgment—having the great outlines of my business laid before you.

After having lived the ensuing Winter at the Mansion house you will be better able to decide than at the present moment, how far your convenience, my interest, and indeed circumstances, may render your removal to the other place more eligable.—I shall readily agree to either.—Materials are now providing for building a house for Mr. Crow; whose house it was first proposed you should live in, for him to remove to.—There are a great number of Negro children at the Quarters belonging to the house people; but they haveAlways been forbid (except two or 3 young ones belonging to the

Cook, and the Mulatto fellow Frank in the house, her husband; both of whom live in the Kitchen) from coming within the Gates of the Inclosures of the Yards, Gardens &ct; that they may not be breaking the Shrubs, and doing other mischief; but I believe that they are often there notwithstanding:—but if they could be broke of the practice it would be very agreeable to me, as they have no business within; having their wood, Water, &ct at their own doors without.—

The season has been remarkably sickly, generally, but my family, except a few slight touches of the intermittant fever—chiefly among the blacks—have shared less of it, than I find from report, has been felt in most other places.—

I am Your friend &ct
Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce

German Town, 24t Novr. 1793

Mr. Pearce,

On my way to this place (about the last of Octr.) I lodged a letter for you in the Post Office at Baltimore, which I hope got safe to your hands, although I have not heard from you since.

I shall begin, now, to throw upon Paper such general thoughts, and directions, as may be necessary for your government when you get to Mount Vernon; and for fear of accidents, if transmitted to you thro' any other channel, will deposit them in the hands of my Nephew, Mr. Howell Lewis, who will remain (though inconvenient to me) at that place until your arrival there; that he may put you in possession, and give you such information into matters as may be useful.—

As my farms stand much in need of manure, and it is difficult to raise a sufficiency of it on them; and the Land besides requires something to loosen and

ameliorate it, I mean to go largely (as you will perceive by what I shall hand to you through Mr. Lewis) upon Buck Wheat as a Green manure (Plowed in, when full in blossom)—for this purpose I have requested a Gentleman of my acquaintance, in the County of Loudoun, about Mount Vernon, to send to my place in time 450, or 500 bushels of this article for seed.—And as I do not wish to go largely upon Corn, it is necessary I should sow a good many Oats;—my calculation (allowing two bushels to the Acre) is about 400 bushels wanting.—Not more than the half of which can I calculate I have of my own, for Seed next Spring, and therefore if you could carry round with you two hundred, or even 300 bushels to be certain; of those which are good in quality, and free from Onions, I will readily pay for them and the accustomed freight.—That I may know whether to depend upon yr doing this, or not, write me word; that in case of failure with you, I may try to obtain them through some other channel.—

I am your Friend and Servant

Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce

Philadelphia 18t Decemr 1793.

Mr. Pearce,

The paper enclosed with this letter will give you my ideas, generally, of the course of Crops I wish to pursue.—I am sensible more might be made from the farms for a year or two—but my object is to recover the fields from the exhausted state into which they have fallen, by oppressive crops, and to restore them (if possible by any means in my power) to health and vigour.—But two ways will enable me to accomplish this.—The first is to cover them with as much manure as possible (winter and summer).—The 2d a judicious succession of Crops.

Manure can not be had in the abundance the fields require; for this reason, and to open the land which is hard bound by frequent cultivation and want of proper dressings, I have introduced Buck Wheat in the plentiful manner you will perceive by the Table, both as a manure, and as a substitute for Indian Corn for horses &ct; it being a great ameliorator of the soil. —How far the insufferable conduct of my Overseers, or the difficulty of getting Buck Wheat and Oats for seed, will enable me to carry my plan into effect, I am unable at this moment to decide.—You possibly, will be better able to inform me sometime hence.—Colo. Ball of Leesburgh has promised to use his endeavours to procure and send the first to Mount Vernon; but where to get as much of the latter as will answer my purposes (unless I send them from this city) I know not; but before I can decide on the quantity it may be necessary for me to purchase, it is essential I should know the quantity grown on my own estate; and which after I went to Virginia in September last I directed should no longer be fed away.—The common Oats which are brought from the Eastern Shore to Alexandria for sale, I would not sow—first, because they are not of a good quality—and 2dly because they are rarely, if ever, free from Garlick and wild Onions: with which, unfortunately, many of my fields are already but too plentifully stocked from the source already mentioned; and that too before I was aware of the evil.

I have already said that the insufferable conduct of my Overseers may be one mean of frustrating my plan for the next year.—I will now explain myself.— You will readily perceive by the rotation of Crops I have adopted, that a great deal of Fall plowing is indispensable.—Of this I informed every one of them, and pointed out the fields which were to be plowed at

this season.—So anxious was I, that this work should be set about early, that I made an attempt soon after you were at Mount Vernon in September, to begin it; and at several times afterwards repeated the operation in different fields at Dogue-run farm;—but the ground being excessively hard and dry, I found that to persevere would only destroy my horses without effecting the object in the manner it ought to be, and therefore I quit it; but left positive directions that it should recommence at every farm as soon as ever there should come rain to moysten the earth—and to stick constantly at it, except when the horses were employed in treading out Wheat (which was a work I also desired might be accomplished as soon as possible).—Instead of doing either of these, as I ordered, I find by the reports, that McKoy has, now and then, plowed a few days only as if it were for amusement.—That Stuart has but just begun to do it.—And that neither Crow nor Davy ad Muddy-hole had put a plow into the ground so late as the 7th. of this month.—Can it be expected then, that frosts, Snow and Rain will permit me to do much of this kind of work before March or April? When Corn planting, Oats sowing, and Buck Wht for manure, ought to be going into the grd, in a well prepared state, instead of having it to flush up at that season—and when a good deal of Wheat is to be got out with the same horses. —Crow having got out none of his that was stacked in the field, nor Stuart and McKoy much of theirs, which is in the same predicament;—the excuse being, as far as it is communicated to me, that their whole time and force since the month of October has been employed in securing their Corn—When God knows how little enough of that article will be made.

I am the more particular on this head for two reasons —first to let you see how little dependence there is

on such men when left to themselves (for under Mr. Lewis it was very little better)—and 2dly to show you the necessity of keeping these Overseers strictly to their duty—that is—to keep them from running about, and to oblige them to remain constantly with their people;—and moreover, to see at what time they turn out of a morning—for I have strong suspicions that this, with some of them, is at a late hour, the consequence of which to the Negroes is not difficult to foretell.—All these Overseers as you will perceive by their agreements, which I herewith send, are on standing wages; and this with men who are not actuated by the principles of honor or honesty, and not very regardful of their characters, leads naturally to endulgences—as *their* profits, whatever may be *mine*, are the same whether they are at a horse race or on the farm—whether they are entertaining company (which I believe is too much the case) in their own houses, or are in the field with the Negroes.

Having given you these ideas, I shall now add, that if you find any one of them inattentive to the duties which by the articles of agreement they are bound to perform, or such others as may be reasonably enjoined,—Admonish them in a calm, but firm manner of the consequences.—If this proves ineffectual, discharge them, at any season of the year without scruple or hesitation, and do not pay them a copper;—putting the non-compliance with their agreemt in bar.

To treat them civilly is no more than what all men are entitled to, but, my advice to you is, to keep them at a proper distance; for they will grow upon familiarity, in proportion as you will sink in authority, if you do not.—Pass by no faults or neglects (especially at first) for overlooking one only serves to generate another, and it is more than probable that some of

them (one in particular) will try, at first, what lengths he may go.—A steady and firm conduct, with an inquisitive inspection into, and a proper arrangement of everything on your part, will though it may give, trouble at first, save a great deal in the end—and you may rest assured that in everything that is just, and proper to be done ib your part, (you) shall meet with the fullest support ib mine.—Nothing will contribute more to effect these desirable purposes than a good example—unhappily this was not set (from what I have learnt lately) by Mr. Whiting, who, it is said, drank freely—kept bad company in my house in Alexandria—and was a very debauched person—wherever this is the case it is not easy for a man to throw the first stone for fear of having it returned to him;—and this I take to be the true cause why Mr. Whiting did not look more scrupulously into the conduct of the Overseers, and more minutely into the smaller matters belonging to the Farms—which, though individually (they) may be trifling, are not found so in the agregate; for there is no addage more true than an old Scotch one, that "many mickles make a muckle."

I have had but little opportunity of forming a correct opinion of my white Overseers, but such observations as I have made I will give.

Stuart appears to me to understand the business of a farm very well, and seems attentive to it.—He is I believe a sober man, and according to his own account a very honest one.—As I never found him(at the hours I usually visited the farm) absent from some part or another of his people, I presume he is industrious and seldom from home.—He is talkative, has a high opinion of his own skill and management—and seems to live in peace and harmony with the Negros who are confided to his care.—He speaks

extremely well of them, and I have never heard any complaint of him.—His work however, has been behind hand all the year, owing he says, and as I believe, to his having too much plowing to do—and the last omission, of not plowing when he knew my motives for wishing it, has been extremely reprensible.—But upon the whole, if he stirs early, and works late, I have no other fault to find than the one I have just mentioned—His talkativeness and vanity may be humoured.

Crow is an active man, and not deficient in judgment. —If kept strictly to his duty would, in many respects, make a good Overseer.—But I am much mistaken in his character, if he is not fond of visiting, and receiving visits.—This, of course, withdraws his attention from his business, and leaves his people too much to themselves; which produces idleness, or slight work on one side, and flogging on the other—the last of which besides the dissatisfaction which it creates, has, in one or two instances been productive of serious consequences—I am not clear either, that he gives due attention to his Plow horses and other stock which is necessary, although he is very fond of riding the former—not only to Alexandria &ct but about the farm, which I did not forbid as his house was very inconvenient to the scene of his business.

McKoy appears to me to be a sickly, slothful and stupid fellow.—He had many more hands than were necessary merely for his Crop, and though not 70 acres of Corn to cultivate, did nothing else.—In short to level a little dirt that was taken out of the meadow ditch below his house seems to have composed the principal part of his Fall work; altho' no finer season could have happened for preparing the second lot of the Mill swamp for the purpose of laying it to grass.— If more exertion does not appear in him when he gets

into better health he will be found an unfit person to overlook so important a farm, especially as I have my doubts also of his care and attention to the horses &ct.

As to Butler, you will soon be a judge whether he will be of use to you or not.—He may mean well, and for ought I know to the contrary may, in some things have judgment; but I am persuaded he has no more authority over the Negros he is placed, than an old woman would have; and is as unable to get a proper day's Work done by them as she would, unless led to it by their own inclination wch I know is not the case.

Davy at Muddy-hole carries on his business as well as the White Overseers, and with more quietness than any of them.—With proper directions he will do very well; and probably give you less trouble than any of them, except in attending to his care of the stock, of which I fear he is negligent; as there are deaths too frequent among them.—

Thomas Green (Overlooker of the Carpenters) will, I am persuaded, require your closest attention, without which I believe it will be impossible to get any work done by my Negro Carpenters—in the first place, because, it has not been in my power, when I am away from home, to keep either him, or them in any settled work; but they will be flying from one trifling thing to another, with no other design, I believe, than to have the better oportunity to be idle, or to be employed on their own business—and in the next place, because,—although authority is given to him—he is too much upon a level with the Negros to exert it; from which cause, if no other every one works, or not, as they please and carve out such jobs as they like.—I had no doubt when I left home the 28th of Oct. but that the house intended for Crow wd have been nearly finished by this time, as in order to facilitate the execution I bought Scantling, Plank and Singles for

the building: instead of this I do not perceive by his weekly report that a tool has yet been employed in it —nor can I find out by the said report that the barn at Dogue-run is in much greater forwardness than when I left it.

To correct the abuses which have crept into all parts of my business—to arrange it properly, and to reduce things to system; will require, I am sensible, a good deal of time and your utmost exertions;—of the last, from the character you bear, I entertain no doubt; the other, I am willing to allow, because I had rather you should probe things to the bottom, whatever time it may require to do it, than to decide hastily upon the first view of them; as to establish good rules, and a regular system, is the life, and the soul of every kind of business.

These (rest of letter missing).

MR. WILLIAM PEARCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Jany. 29th., 1794.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed came to my hands a few days ago—the means are also enclosed to discharge Colo. Simm's account, and to receive his requittal.—I would thank you to get from and forward to me, Mr. Lee's charge also; that my Administration of the Estate of Colo. Colvill may be finally closed, and the balance deposited somewhere for the benefit of the residuary legatees.—

That I may be better able to decide upon the latter point, I would thank you for an extract of that part of Colo. Thoms. Colvill's Will (or the Will itself, as I presume it is no longer of any use to you) which makes this devise; and for *all* the claims, proofs, &ca. which have been handed to his Executors in consequence thereof, and which were deposited (to the best of my

recollection) with you, along with the other papers.—
I am Dear Sir

Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. Are there not some parts of Colo. Simm's charge which ought to be paid, or at least repaid by the defendants?

To JAMES KEITH.

PHILADELPHIA, Feby. 3d., 1794.

Dear Sir,

In due course of the Post I have received your letters of the 17th of December and 21st of the last month; and congratulate you on the birth of a son and the passage of your family through the Small Pox.

As you had acknowledged the receipt of the needful for purchasing the Buck Wt, and had assured me that no disappointment should follow, I have not given you the trouble of a lettter until now, since I wrote from German Town;—and now, principally to beg that the Buck Wheat be down in time for early sowing; the present frost being favorable for transportation.

I have procured for you, and it shall be sent with my own by the first vessel to Alexandria, three bushels of Clover seed which appears to be clean, and warranted fresh. It will cost delivered at Alexandria about eight dollars a bushel. It shall be directed to the care of Col. Gilpin to whom my own things will be consigned; as the Capt. is not at liberty to send any part of his cargo before he arrives at the port to which he is bound. No opportunity has offered since the first frost (in December) set in, or both yours and mine would have gone e'er this. To say now where they will go is more than I am able as the Delaware is close, and navigation at an end until there comes a thaw.

With this letter is enclosed a box containing brace-

lets etc. for Mrs. Ball wch I hope will get safe to and, as I have directed them to the particular care of the Postmaster in Alexandria—Mrs. Washington and the family join me in every good wish for you, Mrs. Ball and Miss Milly, if with you, and with affectionate regard

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servt.
Go. Washington.

As soon as you have ascertained the amount of cost and charges of the Buck Wheat delivered at Mt. Vern. let me know it and I will remit what may be due on the acct.—The freight of the Clover seed from hence to Alexandria as well as the first cost of it will be paid here.

G. W.

To Col. Burgess Ball.

Philadelphia, March 10th., 1794.

Sir,

In due course of Post I was favoured with your letter of the 25th of Jany, with the deed which it enclosed from Colo. Mercer & others, to me.—This deed refers to a Survey of the Manor of Woodstock (in the year 1782) and to a division thereof made by Hezekiah Veatch, assistant Surveyor of Montgomery County, on the 2d. day of January 1793.—

The latter (is the body of the deed) is said to be recorded.—It is essentially necessary indeed that it should be so.—But neither the original, nor a copy thereof was forwarded to me.—This induces me to give you the trouble of informing me whether the above Survey of Mr. Veatch is admitted to record,—and, in that case, that you would be so good as to furnish me

with either the original, or an attested copy thereof from Your Office.—

I am—Sir
Your Obedt. Servant
G. WASHINGTON.

To JOHN GWINN.

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 10th, 1794.

Dear Sir,

To the best of my recollection when you paid me for my flour of last year you asked the refusal of it this year.

By the report from my men I perceive about 3,000 bushels of wheat has been manufactured; but how much flour it has made and of what sort, I am yet to learn. If you incline to purchase what there is, let me know the best price you will give; or to make the matter short, and to save time, you may have the Superfine (if any is made) and fine flour at what they sell for in this market with a deduction of the usual freight per barrel from Alexandria to the place. (*) Your answer, as soon as it is convenient to you, and oblige

Dear Sir
Your Obedient Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I have more than what is meatd. above to grind.

To Robert T. Hose.

(*) The cost prices in this City are

Superfine..... 50/
Common 47/6

Two or three months credit I should not object to.

PHILADELPHIA, 10th. March, 1794.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 1st. inst. with its enclosures, I have duly received.

I shall, by this day's Post, write to the representative of Colo. Carlyle (agreeably to the suggestion in Mr. Chalmers letter) to know if he (Mr. Herbert) can throw any light upon the payment of £100 which Mr. Chalmers conceives he must have made on acct. of Mr. Sidney George's Bond.—When I receive the answer it shall be forwarded to you.—Till then the draught on Mr. Chalmers may be suspended.—

I have no other object in this business than to bring everything which relates to it to a speedy & equitable close as far as it respects the parties interested and to a justifiable one as it concerns myself.—On these principals I should hope Mr. George would not require (having an attested copy of it) the original bond in the possession of Mr. Chalmers especially as the receipt for the money might recite a statement of the fact, for his indemnification.—

It is of moment, however, to me, to have it ascertained whether the sum of £100 recd. by Mr. Chalmers– & the sum due from Mr. George for the payment of £90 ought not to be discharged with interest.—The Administration accts. which have been settled will show that interest has been paid by the estate of Colo. Collins (Miss Anderson is an instance of it) and judgments in behalf of the estate have been obtained, in Virginia, with interest.—To act safely is all I aim at, for I neither gain nor lose by the transaction.—

I am—Dear Sir
Your Most Obedt. & Very Hble. Servant
G. Washington.

To William Tilghman.

Phila., March 23d, 1794.

Dear Sir,

By a letter I have just received from my Manager Mr. Pearce dated the 18th inst. I find he had received

no more at that time, than 131 bushls. of the Buck Wheat you were to procure for me.—I hope there will be no disappointment of the remainder.—It would fall hard upon me, as I have not the quantity of seed oats necessary to carry my plan into effect this year; a failure of both would leave my grounds unoccupied.—

My love in which Mrs. Washington & the family unite is tendered to Mrs. Ball and yours.—

I am—Dear Sir

Your Affecte.

Go. Washington.

To Colo. Burgess Ball.

Philadelphia, April 6th 1794.

Mr. Pearce,

Your letter and Reports of the 1st. instant I have received, and am glad to find by the first that you have got your family safe to Mount Vernon; as, unquestionably, it will be a satisfaction to you to have them along with you.—Change of air may, and I hope will, restore your eldest daughter to health again.

I had no doubt but that the late capture of our Vessels by the British Cruisers, followed by the Embargo which has been laid on the Shipping in our Ports, wd naturally occasion a temporary fall in the article of provisions;—yet, as there are the same mouths to feed as before;—as the demand, consequently, will be as great;—and as the Crops in other parts of the world will not be increased by these means, I have no doubt at all, but that, as soon as the present impediments are removed the prices of flour will rise to what it has been (at least) for which reason hold mine up to the prices mentioned in my last; and if they are offered, make a provisory agreement, to be ratified, or not, by me;—an answer to which can be obtained in a week.—With respect to the Wheat on hand, you must (if you hear nothing to the contrary from me) be governed by cir-

QUILT MADE BY MRS. WASHINGTON AND GIVEN BY HER TO MRS. LEAR

cumstances and your own judgment, in getting it out of the straw;—but, at any rate, remove it into the Barns for the purpose of threshing in weather when the people cannot work out.—

When salt, or any other article of which you are in want, gets to a high price, provide for the present occasion *only* unless there is a moral certainty of their rising still higher; in that case prudence would direct otherwise.—

It was not my expectation that either grass or grain could be rolled at the expence of stopping the Ploughs; consequently, if the Oxen were not in a condition for the accomplishment of this work the execution of it was not to be expected:—but is not this an instance among a variety of others, of the impolicy of not breaking a great number of Steers at each of the Farms? which would prevent the few that are broke from being reduced too low for the services thereof.—Twenty Oxen are not more expensive than ten broke, and ten unbroke Steers, because you feed them as Oxen only when they are worked; and unbroke Steers must be fed, as well as Oxen (though not in the same manner) at other times.—By this means there never would be a want of draught Cattle for Cart, Harrow or Roller.—

How does the young grass which was sown in the new meadows last fall, and the Clover come on?—Was the latter injured much by the Winter?

Besides the number of Stacks which are yet in Wheat, I wanted to know what those stacks are supposed to contain;—and this the Overseers, by comparing the size of them with those which have been tread out, may certainly give a pretty near guess at.—

The three bushels and half of Oats, mentioned to you in my last, are not of such superior quality as I had been led to expect from the account given of them;—yet, notwithstanding, ground may be kept some-

time longer for them, or until you hear further from me, on this head.—

The imposition with respect to the Garden seeds, is very unjustifiable;—'tis infinately worse than simple robbery, for there you loose your money only, but when it is given for bad seed you lose your money, your labour in preparing for the reception of them,—and a whole season.—

Cloaths must be provided for the Young Gardener at Alexandria.—Those for work to be stong, and substantial.—Sunday, or Holliday Cloaths to be decent, and such as may please without going to more expence than is necessary:—but of the latter class I should conceive he can be in no want *now*, unless he has made an improper use of a whole suit (of very good Cloaths) which were given to him the latter end of October last.—

I am sorry to find that my chance for Lambs this year, is so bad.—It does not appear to me by the Reports that I shall have more than a third of what I had last year:—what this can be ascribed to is beyond my comprehension, unless it be for want of Rams, or bad Rams.—Let therefore, at Shearing time, a selection of the best formed, and otherwise promising ram lambs be set apart (in sufficient numbers) to breed from; and when they are fit for it, cut the old ones and turn them aside, to be disposed of.—

At Shearing time also, let there be a thorough culling out, of all the old, and indifferent sheep from the flocks that they may be disposed of, and thereby save me the mortification of hearing every week of their death!—which is the more vexatious as I was taught to believe that every indifferent sheep was drawn for this purpose last Spring, notwithstanding the loss of them which has been sustained the past winter;—and indeed unto the present moment.—

When you next go to Alexandria take the exact dimensions of the rooms in my house at that place, that I may send paper for them.—Give the length and breadth of each—and height from the wash board to the Chair board (as they are commonly called) and thence to the Cornish, if any, with the doors and windows, and size of them, in each room or passage.—If there is occasion to make good the plastering in any of the rooms, no white wash must be put thereon; because it is improper for paper.—Thomas Davis must paint the outsides of both houses there; the lower part of a stone colour, and the roofs red.—The Inside of the dwelling house is also to be painted.—The whole in short is to be put in very good, and decent condition. —If the planking between the two houses is plained, this also should be painted.

I am Your friend &ct
Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce

Philadelphia, 13th Aprl., 1794.

Dear Sir,

I have been favored with your letter of the 4th inst. and thank you for the information respecting the depredations on my land, lying on four miles Run.—Mr. Bushrod Washington a year or two ago was desired to commence a suit or suits against some of the Trespassers but whether he did, or not, or what the result was, I do not recollect ever to have heard.—The growth of the land, is more valuable than the land itself,—to protect it therefore is important.

Not knowing the christian name of Mr. Minor, or whether there may not be more than one of that name, I am at a loss to direct to him; and indeed for a safe mode of conveying a letter to him, and therefore take the liberty of putting the enclosed under Cover to you,

with a request (after putting a wafer in it) that you would be so good as to have it safely conveyed to the right person.

The accounts which I receive from Mount Vernon, respecting my Wheat, are very unfavorable.—They could not, indeed, he otherwise, after the effect, occasioned by drought in the fall had become apparent, which was the case before I left home in the latter part of October.

The appointment of a Marshall, for the District of Georgia, had taken place before your letter came to my hands:—but if the case had been otherwise Mr. McCrea, however well known in Virginia was too new a settler, and too little known in Georgia to have become an acceptable man for that office, when half the State (in a manner) was in hot pursuit of it. & many of the ancient inhabitants & respectable characters were pressing forward by themselves, & friends, on this occasion.—

My best wishes attend Mrs. Stuart and the rest of the family, & with very great esteem & regard—

I am—Dear Sir

Your Affecte. Servant

Go. Washington.

To David Stuart Esqr.

Philadelphia May 4th 1794

Mr. Pearce,

Your letter of the 29th ulto, and the reports which were enclosed, came duly to hand.

I am sorry to find by the first that the Ship Peggy had not then arrived at George Town, from London.—I fear the White thorn Plants (5,000 in number) which I have on board, together with Mr. Lears fruit Trees, will suffer very much, if they are not entirely destroyed; by the advanced season.—Let the ground (wherever

the first are to go) be prepared for their reception, that no time which can he avoided, may be lost in getting them into it;—as to the latter, that is the fruit trees, there cannot be many of them, consequently no previous preparation is necessary, for their deposit.—

I wish you had discharged Green without any ceremony, when you found him drinking, and idling his time away;—as to any reliance, on his promise to amend, there can be no sort of dependance:—for it has been found that he is growing worse and worse: The consequence of which is, that he dare not find fault with those who are intrusted to his care, lest they shd retort, and disclose his rascally conduct; by which means work that the same number of hands would perform in a week, takes mine a month.—Nothing but compasion for his helpless family, has hitherto induced me to keep him a moment in my service (so bad is the example he sets); but if he has no regard for them himself, it is not to be expected that I am to be a continual sufferer on this acct, for his misconduct.

I never could get an account of the Corn made on my Estate last year, consequently can form no idea of the quantity now on hand, nor of the prospect there is of its carrying me through the year.—At any rate, it should be used with great care, but if it is likely to run short, as much parsimony should be observed as can comport with the absolute calls for it, on the farms, as I know not where to get more; and should find it inconvenient to pay for it if I did.

Does the first sown Buck Wheat come up well?—as fast as any field, or lot is planted with Potatoes, let the quantity which has been used therefor, be noted in the Farm Report of the place where they have been used.—To plant the Potatoes whole is the best, where there is enough of them; when there is not, cutting becomes necessary, and should then be adopted.—

In the Gardeners report is a query, if Apricots will be wanting to preserve.—I answer No.—for the situation of public business now is, and likely to remain such, that my family will not be able to spend any time at Mount Vernon this Summer—that is—I cannot do it, and Mrs. Washington would not chuse to be there without me.—My present intention is, if public business will perimt, to make a flying trip there soon after the rising of Congress; but when that will be is more than I am able to decide, at present.

It is not usual—nor is there any occasion—for Papering the ceiling of the Room, or rooms (if more than one should be papered) in the House, in Alexandria.—

I am—Your friend &ct

Go. Washington.

Mr. William Pearce

Philadelphia, May 9th, 1794.

Sir,

Your letter of the 14th. ulto. and the first Vol. of an American Biography, came safe to my hands. For both I pray you to accept my thanks,—and to consider me as a subscriber for the latter.

I wish is was in my power to afford you any aid in the prosecution of so desirable a work.—But I do not see wherein I can,— and if I did, my avocations are of such a nature as to allow me no time to profit by the means.– My good wishes therefore seem to be all that is left me, on this occasion.—These, with great sincerity I offer you, with assurances of being, Sir

Yr. Most Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Revd. Mr. Jeremy Belknap

PHILADELPHIA, May 9th, 1794.

Sir,

I have received, though really it has not been in my power yet to read, the Pamphlet (*The Revolution in France*, (?) *N. Y.*, 1794) you were so obliging as to send me. Your motives to writing it are highly laudable, and I sincerely wish they may meet the reward which is due to them.—I pray you accept my thanks for the work, and to be assured that

I am—Sir
Your most obed. Serv.
G. WASHINGTON.

MR. NOAH WEBSTER, JUNR.

PHILADELPHIA 17th May, 1795.

Dear Sir:

(Private)

Your letter of the 11th inst. came to hand by the Post of yesterday.

With pleasure I received your acceptance of the office of commissioner of the federal city. The commission will be handed to you from the Department of State, and the sooner you can enter upon the duties of that trust, the more convenient and agreeable it will be.

With the candor, which I am sure will be agreeable to you, I shall intimate (for reasons which I shall not at this time enumerate, but which will appear evident after you have been there awhile) that a residence in the city, if a house is to be had, will be more promotive of its welfare than your abode in George Town. —I shall add that the motives which induced a fixed salary (which the first commissioners did not receive) were that they should reside on the sort;—that they were not only to plan and regulate the affairs of the city—but to look to the execution of them also.—To

accomplish which, with the greatest ease to themselves, and best advantage to the public, I presumed that after measures were decided on by the *Board* they would have been so arranged as that each member would have attended to the execution of a particular part;—or if found more convenient, that in rotation, each would have superintended the whole.—I could not perceive however, when I was in the city last (the only time since the change in the Board) that any such arrangement had been adopted. In short, the only difference I could perceive between the proceedings of the old and the new commission results from the following comparison.—The old met not oftener than once a month except on particular occasions;—the new meet once or twice a week. In the interval the old resided at their houses in the country;—the new reside at their houses in George Town. The old had too much of the business done by daily wages, and were obliged to trust to overseers and superintendents to look to the execution;—the new have gotten more into the execution of it by contracts, and piece work, but rely equally, I fear, on others to see to the performance. These changes (tho' for the better) by no means apply a radical cure to the evils that were complained of, nor will they justify the difference of compensation from six dollars per day for every day's attendance in the city and sixteen hundred per annum.

My time will not permit me to go more into detail on this subject, nor is it necessary;—your own good judgment will supply you with more that I could add. The year 1800 will be soon upon us;—The necessity therefore of hurrying on the public buildings and other works of a public nature and executing of them with economy.—The propriety of preventing idleness in those who have day or monthly wages, and imposition by others, who work by measure—by the

piece—or by contract—and seeing that all contracts are fulfilled with good faith, are too obvious to be dwelt on, and are not less important than to form plans, and establish rules for conducting, and bringing to a speedy & happy conclusion this great and arduous business.—With esteem and regard

I am—Dear Sir
Your obed. Sevt.
G. WASHINGTON.

ALEXANDER WHITE, Esq.

PHILADELPHIA, 18th May, 1794.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 7th inst. came duly to hand, with the Rental enclosed.—

As there are no houses, or any thing standing on my lots in the Town & Common of Winchester, it is of no great moment what is done with them. I am not disposed to sell them, nor to part with them, or lease for a long term, but if you could obtain an annual Rent for either, or both, without running me to any expense, it would, however small, be clear. With respect to my lots in Bath, some thing ought to be done with them.—The Buildings there on, together with the lots, stand me in at least £200: but whether *common* interest can be obtained in a Rent for them, you, who know the state of things in that quarter can judge better of than I am able to do. & therefore I leave it to you, to act for me as you would for yourself.—If they were even let to some one who would keep the buildings in Repair it would be more desirable by far than, without a tenant, or some person to take care of them, to suffer them to fall to ruin.—

I do not know whether I clearly understand your proposition of an exchange of the Land in Potomac for a Lot in Berkeley County.— The first contains 240

acres instead of 140, as mentioned in your letter, 200 of which is rich River bottom, which must as the Navigation of the River improves, become extremely valuable from the produce it is capable of, besides the fine black Walnuts which grow thereon, & would fetch a good sum at the Federal City; if others can be restrained from pilfering them.—On the other hand, I know of no land I hold at the Mouth of Bullskin, nor any lease that was ever given to a person of the name of Dimmett.—No such name, I am pretty sure, is to be found in the original list of my Tenants, and equally sure I am no Leases have been given of late years (with my consent) for three lives.—When you explain this matter more fully, it will be more in my power than it is at present to speak to you on this particular point.—Speaking of Leases for lives, I am led to observe to you, that the lives will never decrease, nor the proof of the existence of those who were originally inserted.—I do not recollect any instance of my changing names where the leases have been transferred, & but few of my consenting to transfers; which makes me more desirous of knowing how a Person of the name of Demmett (which I do not recollect at all) should be possessed of a lease for three lives.—I hope Muse has not abused my confidence in putting blank leases into his hands—signed—in order to be filled up thereafter, by doing it improperly.

Although I can very illy spare the money arising from the Rents you have collected; yet, if the lots are susceptible of such augmentation in the annual income; by purchasing in the leases as you think of, I consent to your applying the money in your hands to this purpose, in cases where there is a moral certainty of a considerable increase of Rent; and that the purchases are made by the first of next November.—You will ascertain *precisely* before you attempt these purchases—1st what lives are *certainly* existing in them, & 2nd

whether the Covenants in them have been complied with on the part of the Tenants, for in the first case I may be purchasing *that* which belongs to me of right,—and in the second case, *that* which they have forfeited by a non-compliance with the conditions on which the leases were granted.—You will recollect also, that by the terms of one, or most of the leases, the Tenant is not at liberty to sell to any one without my consent.

I am sorry you should meet with any difficulty about the land I gave you, near the Accoceek old Iron Works. —I am not possessed of any Papers belonging to it, nor is it in my power to point you to any Office where they are to be found; but I should conceive that the tract is so well known that all the adjoining land holders are able to show you the bounds of it.—There was one John Henry that knew it well—and I believe Col: Charles Carter of Ludlow has some knowledge of it. I have been told, that some person in Falmouth (whose name I do not recollect) had pillaged the land of the most valuable Pines thereon; and that either he, or some other, talked of escheating it; but I never supposed injustice would prompt any one to such a measure.—Perhaps this, or some such mode might be advisable for you, as the title Papers are not to be found; nor the manner in which my Mother came by it to be traced with precision.—By Will (I have understood) it was left to her by her father (Ball) but what his Christian Name was I am unable to tell you, nor the County he lived in with certainty but presume it was Lancaster.—This Will seems to me to be the only clue by which the title can be traced; the bequest, probably, may as usual contain some description of the Land.

Your aunt & the family joins me in best regards for Mrs. Lewis.— I am—Dear Sir

Your Sincere friend & Affe. uncle

To Mr. Robt. Lewis. Ge. Washington.

PHILADELPHIA, 29th. May, 1794.

Dear Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 14th. instant.–

The enclosed to Mr. John Lewis, left open for your perusal, will show what I require for myself, and am willing to do for others.—Do you & he therefore, after full enquiry into facts, point out what this ought to be —and no delay shall be experienced from me.—

The two hundred pounds, for which you endorsed an order upon a Merchant of this place, has been duly paid. The remainder of the money due me for the purchase of the lots (amounting to about two hundred pounds more) I give, as I desired Mr. Howell Lewis to inform you to my niece Mrs. Carter.—And by these presents I confirm the gift.—Give my love to her

With great esteem & regard I am—Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To CHAS. CARTER, JR., Esqe.

PHILADELPHIA, 29th. May, 1794.

Dear Sir,

The letter of which the enclosed is a copy renders further explanation on my part in a manner unnecessary—I must beg leave notwithstanding to add that when mistakes happen the sooner they can be rectified the better.

All I recollect of this matter (and that but imperfectly) is, that Colo. Lewis (your father), purchased from a Michael Robinson for and on my account, the lots in Fredericksburg on which my mother lived.—Robinson (I believe) bought them of him, & no Deed having been made for them *he*, to avoid trouble & the expense of double transfers, conveyed them to me.—

If this was done by wrong numbers it is incumbent on you as heir at law, to correct this error and it (may seem) necessary that I should, for that same reason,

convey the lots 111 & 113 to the rightful owners of them.—

I wish that you and Mr. Carter wd. examine into this matter *thoroughly*, & whatever is proper to be done on my part shall be executed without delay.—

I am Dear Sir

Your Obed. Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To John Lewis, Esq.

Philadelphia 27th of June 1795.

Sir;

Please to deliver to Mr. Ross, or send them to him by a careful hand, the Surveys of all my lands with which you have been furnished—

And let me entreat you to make, without further delay, a final settlement of the accounts between us;—pay what is in your hands, and deposit the statement of all that is due me from the tenants, with the papers showing the several tenements, with Mr. Nugent, that he may, thereby, be enabled to go on with my business.—

I am Sir

Your Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

Col. John Cannon.

Philadelphia 9th July 1795

Sir,

I have been favored with your letter of the 29th. of April, accompanying your Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan, with engravings, etc.—for your kindness in sending which I entreat you to accept my best thanks.

I have not had leisure yet to look over them, with attention: but I am persuaded that there is a fund of interesting information to be found in the work: for

the means of coming at which I am extremely thankful.

I am—Sir
Your Obed. & very Hble Serv.
G. WASHINGTON.

JAMES RENNELL, ESQ.

PHILADELPHIA 10th. July 1795

Revd. Sir,

It has so happened —but really I can hardly tell how— that I have been very deficient in not acknowledging, at an earlier period the receipt of your obliging favor of the 1st. of May last year, accompanying a copy of the works of the venerable Bishop of Sodon & Man, which, agreeably to the Will of the late Doctor Thomas Wilson (his son) you had the goodness to send me.—

Accept now, I pray you Sir, my thanks for the part you have executed in this business ; and the assurances that my not having done it before did not proceed from want of respect to the memory of the author—his son—or yourself, but to mere accident.—With very great respect

I am—Sir Your most
Obed. Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

THE REVD. MR. C. CRUTTWELL.

PHILADELPHIA, July 18th, 1794.

Dear Sir,

If in a letter, not long since written to you, you were authorized to rent the South tract of land I hold on Difficult Road, in Loudon County,—I now desire that you will not do it—I have had some overtures for the purchase of it; and have been offered five pounds an acre, giving credit, which I was willing to do, but the thing that parted us at that time, and may possibly do

so for ever, was interest; he wanted credit without paying this to which I would not consent—But as land thereabouts is rising fast in value, I have no doubts of obtaining the price & terms, & even more, by keeping it up, provided it is not incumbered with a Lease.—

I authorised you in my last, to lay out the money collected on my behalf for Rents due me, in purchasing in the Leases, but restricted this operation not to exceed (if I recollect rightly) the first of November.—I now prolong it until the first of January (which closes the present year) beyond which you are not at liberty to apply money to this purpose, without further instructions from me.—

You must be very particular in examining into the real State and condition of the Leases;—for if the accounts of the Tenants (without this enquiry) is to govern, the lives will never expire.—It is essential also to know, if transfers have taken place, under what authority it has happened; as there is a clause, or covenant in the leases (if my memory serves me), restraining this, without written permission of the Landlord.—And if it shall appear, by any of the leases, that an alteration of names, from the original instrument, has taken place, to learn, with precision, by what means it has taken place.—I shall expect written evidence of these facts.—A verbal explanation without, from the Tenants, will not satisfy me.—

My love to Mrs. Lewis in Wch. your Aunt joins

With affect friendship

I am Yours

To Mr. Robt. Lewis. G. Washington.

Philadelphia, July 28th, 1794.

Sir,

Your letter of the 29th. ulto. came to my hands a few days ago only.

Mr. Samuel Jackson (if that is the name of the person who asked me sometime in the course of last winter if I would dispose of my land in Fayette, & at what price) must very greatly have misunderstood my answer if he conceived thirty shillings an acre was the value I had set upon it.—

The truth is, that at no period since I dissolved my partnership with Simpson, & had any idea of parting with this, & my other land West of the Alligany Mountains, did I ever fix a less value than forty shillings pr. Acre on the tract you live.—It is not to be presumed then that I should lower my price when it was increasing twenty five, fifty, and even an hundred pt. Ct. in almost every direction.—

Mr. Jackson must have mistaken the tract in Washington County for that in Fayette, from the price; for thirty shillings pr. Acre was the value I put on that.—The conversation I had with that Gentleman was very short; for when I found he did not mean to be the purchaser himself, but was making enquiries merely to satisfy his own curiosity or to gratify that of others, I told him I had rated them at such & such prices, 40/. I think for that in Fayette & 30/, for the others, & being asked if I would allow any credit, he was answered yes; provided a certain part of the purchase was paid at the time of ensealing & delivery; and interest paid on the residue. But he was told at parting, that as nothing final had taken place between him & me, he was not to consider any thing that passed between us, as binding upon me at a future day.—

Mentioning this matter to a Gentleman well acquainted with the value, & prices of land in that Country he told me he thought the Land on wch. you live (the whole tract I mean) would fetch Six dollars an acre; —accordingly Mr. Ross of Washington (one

of your Senators) has been authorized to sell both tracts. Not knowing therefore what he may have done in this matter I can not be more precise with you, at this time. If the land is not already under engagement, and I do not believe it is, as it is but lately the power to dispose of is was given, it would give me plaesure that you shd. have the preference, if Mr. Ross and you can agree on the price.—And if you would pay a fourth of the purchase down, you might have credit for the residue four, five, or even six years,—giving the land, and your Bond bearing the rest, as Security

With esteem & regard I am Sir
Yr Very Hble Serv
G. Washington.

To Colo. Israel Shreve.

Germantown, Augt. 10th., 1794.

Dear Sir,

We removed to this place about twelve days ago to avoid the heat of Philadelphia,—& probably may remain at it until the middle of next month. It was here I received your letter of the 5th. instant, which came to my hands yesterday.

The business of establishing Arsenals, and providing proper places for them, is within the Department of War; the Secretary of which (General Knox) set out on Friday last for the Provence of Main, and will not be returned in less than six weeks.—But as I am persuaded he has no idea (nor are there indeed funds provided equal thereto) of giving 25,000 Dollars for the Site of *one, only,* I would not have you, by any means, avoid sowing wheat, or doing any thing else which you might have had in contemplation to do, on Account of what I mentioned to you in my last, on this subject.—

What (under the rose I ask it) is said or thought, as far as it has appeared to you, of the conduct of the

People in the Western Counties of this State (Pennsylvania) towards the excise Officers?—and does there seem to be a disposition among those with whom you converse, to bring them to a sense of their duty, & obedience to law by coercion, if, after they are fully notified by Proclamation & other expedients of the consequences of such outrageous proceedings, they do not submit to the Laws of the United States, & suffer the Collection of the duties upon Spirituous Liquors, & Stills, to be made as in other places?—In a word—would there be any difficulty, as far as the matter has passed under your observation in drawing out a part of the Militia of Loudon, Berkeley, & Frederick to quell this rebellious spirit, & to support order & good government?—You will readily perceive that questions of this sort from me to you & your answers are for my private information, & to go no further than ourselves.

I am sorry to hear that your bad state of health requires the Waters of Bath, but hope they will restore you—My love (in which Mrs. Washington unites) is offered to Mrs. Ball & the family—

I am— Yr. Affecte.

G. Washington.

To Col. Burgess Ball

Philadelphia, Novr. 23d., 1794.

Dear Sir,

It has not been in my power to acknowledge, with convenience, the receipt of your letter of the 14th. ulto. until now;–first, because it did not get to my hands until my return from the Westward, and 2dly, because my attention, ever since to the present moment, has been occupied in examing the various papers on which my communications to Congress were to be founded.—

I do not see how any one can decide so well on the project you have in contemplation as yourself, who has

a view of all the circumstances of the case, before you;— and who know how far so important a change in the scene, as that of transplanting yourself and family into a new country, is reconcilable to your feelings & dispositions.—and because, from the enquiries you have undoubtedly made, you must better know than any other who has turned his thoughts to the subject, what you can sell for *here*, and buy at *there*.—

It has always been my opinion that new countries (by this I mean the interior of our own) are the best to lay the foundation of wealth, in as much as lands which comparatively speaking, are to be had there cheap, rise in a fourfold ratio to what they do on the Atlantic Sea.—and it is to this circumstance, and the opportunities of acquiring them (by being on the scene) that the advantages consist.—as, until the navigation of the Mississippi can be obtained, or the communication between the Eastern & Western Waters be made more easy, than is the case at present, the principal demand for the product of the land is found in the emigrants who resort to it.—To this cause also, is to be ascribed the rapidly increasing prices of those lands.—

In one part of your letter, you talk of removing to Kentucky; and in another, of investing money in lands to West of the Ohio, which creates a doubt as to your principal view. You are not uninformed, I presume, that there is no land office open at this time in the last mentioned District; and that there is no means by which land can be obtained there, at present, except by purchase of Army rights, or from some of those companies to whom Congress have sold large tracts:—and in the present stage of our disputes with the Indians, that no settlement is thought safe from the scalping knife, that is not under the protection of some fort.— The same indeed may be said of the *frontiers* of Kentucky, while the central lands in that state are, as I am

informed, selling very high. But of these facts you must be better informed than I am.—

I should think it perfectly expedient—as soon as you shall have resolved to sell your lands on Rappahanock to advertise it in all the *principal* Gazettes, from Richmond to New York inclusively; and not to be too hasty in dispossing of it, except for a very good price; as there are reasons to believe that in the course of this winter and the ensuing spring and summer, many men of property from Europe will remove to this country, or send over their property, with a view to invest it, either in our funds, or in lands.—

With respect to the other species of property, concerning which you ask my opinion, I shall frankly declare to you that I do not like even to think, much less talk of it.—However, as you have put the question, I shall, in a few words, give you *my ideas* of it.—Were it not then, that I am principled agt. selling negroes, as you would do cattle at a market, I would not, in twelve months from this date, be possessed of one as a slave.—I shall be happily mistaken, if they are not found to be a very troublesome species of property ere many years pass over our heads (but this by the bye)—For this reason—and because there is but little sale for what is raised in the western country, it remains for you to consider whether their value would not be more productive in lands, reserving enough for necessary purposes, than to carry many of them, there. My love to Mrs. Spotswood and the family.

I am— Dear Sir Your Affecte Servant

GE WASHINGTON.

To GENL. ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD.

PHILADELPHIA, Jany. 15th., 1795.

Sir,

I avail myself of your obliging offer to dispose of the

lands I hold in the counties of Fayette & Washington,– hereby empowering you to see the same on the terms which have been mentioned to you.

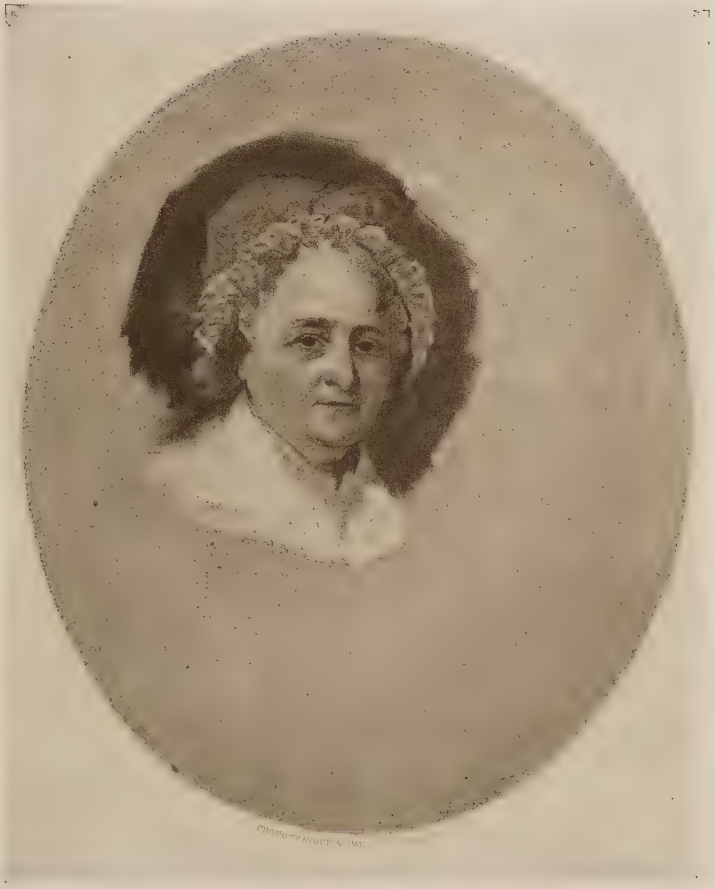
If one fourth of the money is paid at the time of conveyance or within a short period thereafter, I would allow four, five or six years credit for the other three fourths; provided the payment thereof be well secured agreeably to contract; and the interest in the meanwhile assured with punctuality as it becomes due, in one of the Banks of this city—or in either of those of Baltimore, Georgetown or Alexandria. The regular payment of which, at stated periods being a primary consideration with me.—

The tract in Fayette County contains 1,544¼ acres besides the usual allowance of P. C.—The other, by Patent, is 2,813 acres but by a resurvey was found to measure more than 3,000 acres. A description of them would be nugatory, the presumption being that the purchaser whomsoever he may be, will examine the land and judge for himself.—It may not be amiss, however, that it should be generally known that both tracts has improved, and that one of them has a mill there on, and a considerable of Iron Ore within less than 30 yards of the Mill house.—

Having from long experience found that landed property at a distance from the proprietor, who is not able to pay attention to it, is more productive of plague than profit, I feel strongly disposed to sell all the lands I hold on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa; (about 33,000 acres)* in Seven surveys, provided I can obtain, by giving a pretty long credit, what I conceive it is worth.— For the reason already mentioned, a *particular* description of these lands would in a manner be useless but it may not be amiss to add, that they are the cream of the country in which they lye,—the first chosen of it;- and are entirely free from disputes of every kind.—

The whole is internal land, boarded by the rivers above mentioned, and margined by them 59 miles.—They consist of three Surveys on the Ohio, and four on the Great Kanhawa.—The first named are on the East side of the River, betwn. the little and great Kanhawa;—the frost of these tracts, is the first *large* bottom below the mouth of the little Kanhawa, and about 13 miles from Mariatte; containing 2,314 ac., boarded by the river 5½ miles.—The 2nd tract is the 4th large bottom (on the same side of the river) about 16 miles lower down, containing 2,048 acres, boarded by the river 3¼ miles—the third tract, is the next large bottom, 3½ miles lower down, opposite nearly to the great bend, containing 4,395 acres, with a margin of the River of five miles.—The other four tracts are on the Great Kanhawa, as observed before.—The first of them, is on the West side; beginning about two miles from its confluence with the Ohio, and boarded by the former 17 miles; containing 10,990 acres.—The secd. tract is on the east side of the river a little higher up and contains 7,276 acs. boarded by the river 13 miles.—The other two are at the mouth of Cole River, on both sides of the Kanhawa, and in the fork between; containing together 4,950 acres having a front on the river (both sides) of twelve miles.— Besides these have a small tract of 587 acres on the Ohio, called the round bottom; lying opposite to the mouth of Pipe Creek, which is about 15 miles below Wheeling; but nothing short of a large price would induce me to part with this tract—it is bordered by the river 2½ miles.—The soil is of the very richest quality, is in the shape of a horse shoe, with a beautiful situation for a house thereon.

Any services you can render me in the disposal of these lands on the terms I have conversed with you



THE STUART PORTRAIT OF MARTHA WASHINGTON

respecting them, would be gratefully acknowledged by

Dear Sir, Your Obed. Hble. Serv

G. WASHINGTON.

(*) The exact quantity in these 7 surveys is 32,373 acres.

To The HONBLE. JAMES ROSS, Esq.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18th, 1795.

Dear Sir,

Herewith, you will receive Plate, and description of two tracts of land which I hold in Kentucky, on the Waters of Eough Creek.—If you have any knowledge of the land in the part of the country these are said to lye in; or, if your brother John or any other within your reach has, I shd. be obliged to you, for such information respecting them as can be obtained. I wish also to know in what part of the state of Kentucky they lye;— and what the selling price of lands thereabouts is.—In a word, what you think mine are worth from the description given of them—and part they lye in.

The papers I send are copies, which you may keep; and when you go in to Kentucky, as I think you said it was your intention to do the coming Spring, I would thank you for investigating this subject fully, and for writing me a particular account of the Land, and what you suppose it is worth and would sell for,—whether they lye in or out of the settled part of the State—what the properties of the land are,—and whether the streams with which it is said to abound are fit for water works.—If they lye near your own lands I could wish to receive the details from your own view of them, and observation thereon.—

My love to Mrs. Lewis, in which your aunt and the family join, concludes me your sincere friend and

affectionate uncle

To GEORGE LEWIS. GO. WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA, 17th. May, 1795.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 8th. inst.—and if writings drawn *strictly* conformable to the *spirit* of the instructions contained in the enclosed letter to Charles Lee, Esqr. (left open for your perusal) will answer your views in the purchase of my land on Difficult run they may be prepared by him, and sent to me for the signature on my part.—for the other hand adhering as strictly as I do to the principle on which I set out, does not meet your approbation, be so good as to return the letter and deeds therein, & the receipt of them will not be less acceptable than the first named writings.

You will perceive by these instructions, that not a stick of timber, wood, coal or ore (if any should be on the land) is to be removed therefrom, until the purchase money is paid.—This may be interpreted (at first view a rigid clause; inasmuch as the ground which may be cleared, & the timber which may be cut for fencing & other purposes, might afford more firewood that the immediate demand of the farm might require;—this may be true, but it does not follow that it will be lost if corded.—To husband it therefore (while I retain an interest in the land); to avoid all inducement to fell it, faster than the farm may require;—and to avoid all ground for dispute.—in a word, not to lessen the value of the property until it is *actually* gone from my use my motives to this precaution especially, as the removal from off the land of a timber tree or two or a few cords of wood might give rise to a magnified pale which might induce investigation; & be productive of unpleasant sensations:—to avoid which is more desirable than to apply a remedy.

I am Sir, Your Obedient Hble. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To MR. JOHN GILL.

PHILADELPHIA, 17th. May, 1795.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Gill (of Alexandria) and I, have been in treaty some time for a small tract of land which I hold in Loudoun County on Difficult run, at the bridge on the Leesburgh road.—If he will agree to the following terms from the *spirit* of which there will be no departure—such writings as will subserve both of our purposes, I pray you to draw.—

1st. For him to hold the land by lease, for the term of ten years, to commence from the date of the instrument for the use and occupation of which he is to pay in coin of the United States, or other money current at the time, & equivalent thereto, four hundred and thirty three dollars and a third yearly, and every year during the continuance of the said lease, at the Bank of Alexandria, for which a check is to be given.—

2nd. If any part of the said sum of 433⅓ shall be behind, or unpaid in manner aforesd, thirty days after the same shall become due, it shall & may be lawful (and optional for me to re-enter and take possession of the premises as if no such lease had ever been granted,—and if property shouldn't be found thereon adequate to the rent, recourse in the ordinary mode may be resorted to for recovery of the same.—

3rd. That not a timber tree—stick of wood, coal made therefrom—or ore, if any be on the land, shall be removed therefrom under any pretense whatsoever; or used otherwise than for the purposes of the premises.

4th. That for the support and benefit of the same, there shall be left standing on the said tract, at the expiration of the lease a fourth part, at least, of the wood.

5th. It is understood and agreed, and the parties accordingly are to bind themselves as follow—viz.—John Gill, his heirs &ca. to pay to George Washington his heirs &ca. *on* or at *any time* before the expiration of the aforementioned term of ten years, the sum of Six thousand, six hundred and sixty six dollars, & two thirds of a dollar, in the manner aforementioned;—and for surety thereof is to give his own bond if sufficient penalty.—In consideration of which payment, well and truly performed George Washington, or his heirs &c. is to convey, in fee simple, the aforesaid tract; and the rent thenceforward is to cease, & determine.—

6th. Where by Deeds of lease & release from the Revd. Mr. Fairfax to me, the stream of Difficult run is made the boundary between the land thus conveyed, and land conveyed by Deed from (space in original) to on the other, or lower side of the run whereas by the last mentioned deed, a *straight* line is called for as the boundary between the two tracts, which may, according to circumstances, occasion a diminution in the quantity of my land; now it is understood and agreed, (be this as it may) that no alteration, consequent thereof, is to take place in the rent, or in the purchase money of this tract: for by the *tract* and not by the acre, I sell it.—The Deed from Mr. Fairfax to me specifies two hundred & seventy five acres *only:* Just by a resurvey, if I recollect rightly, it measures Three hundred & three acres,—but I mean to give no other warrants than I have received of it;—and from this, to accept what might be involved in dispute by the different lines, & so I would have it

expressed, in order to avoid a controversy hereafter.—

With great esteem and regard

I am—Dear Sir, Your Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Charles Lee, Esqr.

Philadelphia, 25th. May 1795.

Sir,

With much sensibility I received your polite letter of the 25th. of March from Kingston.—

I thank you, Sir, for the plants which are mentioned in the list which accompanied it.—Presuming they arrived at Norfolk with the letter, I have requested a gentleman of my acquaintance at that place to forward them to my Garden at Mount Vernon on the Potomack River, near Alexandria, Virginia, and I feel myself particularly obliged by the offer to supply me with other plants for the Botanical gardens in Jamaica.

When my situation will allow me to pay more attention than I am able to do at present, to situations of this kind, which combine utility, ornament and amusement—I shall certainly avail myself of the liberty you have authorized me to take, in requesting a small supply of such exotics, as, with a little aid may be reconciled to the climate of my garden.—In the meantime, I will cause inquiry to be made for the plants which are required for your garden at Liguanea agreeably to the list of Mr. Wiles.—

I am, Sir Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Farlie Christie, Esqe.

Philadelphia, June 27th., 1795.

Sir,

Had the terms on which I offered you my land in

Fayette county been complied with on your part, the bargain, as I informed you in my letters, would have been conclusive on mine.—But this not being done, and the end of June likely to be as reproductive as the first of it, of the payment which was then to have been made, I conceive myself under no obligation to fulfil the offer I made you on the 14th of January last, of the above-mentioned land.—Nevertheless, if by the first day of August next you shall pay One thousand pounds Pennsylvania curry. with interest thereon down the first day of June—and interest on the remaining sum from that first of June agreeably to the former proposals, in the letter above mentioned—and do, moreover pay up all arrearages of Rent (on account of which I learn from Colo. Cannon, to my very great surprise, much is due) the conveyance will be made to you in the same manner as if payment had, according to agreement, taken place on the first of this month.—If it is not, I do hereby declare, that the former agreement & the present offer, will be considered as null and void, to all interests and purposes, as much so, as if no negotiation had ever taken place between us for the said land.—

With esteem & regard I am—Sir
Your Very Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

To Colo. Israel Shreve.

Philadelphia, 28th June, 1795.

Sir,

Business, and other circumstances, have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 23d. of April until now, that I do it by Mr. Ross.—

I have seen Colo. Cannon, and in strong terms have represented to him the impropriety of his delay in furnishing you with a statement of the concerns between

(him in my behalf) and the tenants in the counties of Fayette & Washington, & in not making a final settlement of all the accounts between us.—If any dependence can be placed in his assurances, he would as soon as he returned home be ready to render his accounts, and give in this statement which has been required of him—but he is continually reducing the Rents under pretence of allowing for improvements.—This, to be sure, is singular enough, for fencing &ca. of plantations or farms which have been settled fifteen or twenty years.—If the tenants on Dogue run have carried wheat to Colo. Cannon's mill, it behoves them to receive payment for it, and therewith to discharge their rents to you; for I shall look to *them* and not to *him*, from whom I can get nothing without more trouble than it is worth—and who ought not to have concerned himself with the business after it was put in your hands which are due after that period.—

It would be well to ascertain what is due from Colo. Shreve on account of Rent as soon as possible for he will receive no conveyance of the lands on which he lives until all the arrears due thereon (as well as the first payment of the purchase money) are paid up.

Having experienced more losses than profit in collecting the rents of the lands in the counties before mentioned. It is my intention to sell both tracts if I can obtain what I conceive to be my worth of them as leases therefore might impede the sale, I am not disposed at this time, under these circumstances to give any.—Among the papers which were deposited in the hands of Colo. Cannon, were copies of the Surveys of my lands on the Ohio & great Kanhawa;—if these should have been received by you, I request that they may be given, or by some safe conveyance sent to Colo. Ross your Senator.—And I pray you to write me, as soon as you can, what state my business is in with the

Tenants—what sum you have actually received on account of Rent—what you have a prospect of soon receiving—and what is due.—In short, I wish to know what the real situation of my affairs, as they respect these tracts is.—

I do not know of any business which the United States have, at the time that requires Surveyors. nor likely to be until a land office is opened. whether this will happen I know no more than you do.

I am Sir

Your very Hble. Servt.

To Mr. Chas. Morgan. G. Washington.

Philadelphia, 10th July, 1795.

Sir,

Your letter of the 9th of March, and the works which accompanied it, I have had the pleasure to read—but not that of seeing Mr. Wilson; who either from his own engagements, or knowledge he obtained of mine, must have been prevented from calling.—For the books I thank you.—

You much over rate any civilities which chance may have enabled me to show you in the course of the War between Great Britain and this country. The view which you are to take of the latter, is flattering to it.—I hope it will deceive none who may turn their attention hitherward.—

I have the honor to be Sir

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Genl. Norman McLeod.

(Private) Philadelphia 7th. Feby. 1796

Dear Sir

I am glad to find by the last letter which we have received from our friend in the Federal City that you

had recovered from the indisposition the proceeding ones announced.

You will perceive by the enclosed advertisement, that I am making an essay to accomplish what I communicated to you in *confidence* when I was last in Virginia.—I call it an essay because I have no sanguine expectation of ameliorating the plan so far as to carry it into complete effect in the course of next year.—If I can succeed so far as to be enabled to give up the Dower negros *at all*, and at terms below what impartial me, & shall say their hire is worth, it will amount to the full extent of my expectation, and this I would wish to accomplish before the other part of my plan is attempted:—and quite enough it will be, when it is considered how much the Dower Negros and my own are intermarried and the former with the neighboring Negros, to part whom will be an affecting and trying affair, happen when it will.—For which, and other reasons, I wish no mention to be made thereof until the way is a little more open;—until I see what effect the advertisement will have;—I shall soon tell from these developements. I shall be able to take more decisive measures;—or in other words, then I shall be able to support myself without these aids.—If I can accomplish the first part of the plan, in any manner tolerably convenient & satisfactory to all that are interested in it, I certainly will do it.—The whole part must depend in some measure on the succedaneum; & an elibable mode of carrying it into effect.—The current of my wishes is stronger to the second than to the first part of the plan, but reasons of a political— indeed of imperious nature must make it a posterior operation.

Among other reasons for promulgating, as extensively as I mean to do, the renting of my farms, is the expectation that some of the Gazettes in which the advertisement is inserted, will find their way into

England or Scotland, and may induce such associations as are therein alluded to, to form and come out, for I have no idea of frittering up the farms, for the accomodation of our country farmers, whose knowledge—practice at least—centres in the destruction of the land, and very little beyond it. I neither expect nor desire that associations from either England or Scotland would form and come out hap-hazard; but such associations might send a confidential person to espy the land.—and report to them: and if it should fall in your way to suggest anything of this sort to any of the *British* merchants* of your acquaintance *as from yourself*, I should be obliged to you.—I shall in less than a week, or on this day week, communicate the terms on which these farms (will be let to M. S. Faarsay (?))

I find by our last letters from the Federal city that Betsey Custis has cast her lot—very much she says, to her own satisfaction—having given it due weight and consideration in *every* point of view she could place the matter so, of course disparity in age could not have escaped.—Mr. Law, so far as I have obtained any knowledge of his character, is a respectable man and much esteemed,—and is reputed to be wealthy:—but he is a stranger, and may, at least in a degree, be an Agent, for which reasons, I think prudence requires, and as a man of honor he cannot refuse, to make a settlement upon her previous to marriage;—of her own fortune, if no more.

Speaking on this subject, it reminds me of another, which has anology to it;—that is—in allotting to Mr. Thomas Peter the Negros who fell to the share of his wife had you adverted to the circumstance, that Mrs. Washington's *Dower Negros* (which were hired to her father) were not to have been among those to a share of whom she has any claim?—If you did not,

and they assisted to form the aggregate, of which the division was made, the proceeding was either wrong, or I am under a misconception of the right of Washington Custis.—I suggest the quest for information, 1st as to the fact—next, if the case has happened, as to the right, then if a mistake has happened, the sooner it is rectified the better.—With great esteem and regard, I am Dear Sir

Your affectionate G. Washington.

David Stuart, Esq.

*In Alexandria or Dunfries only, I mean.

To David Stuart, Esq., 7th. Feb. 1796. P

Philadelphia, 14th. Novr., 1796.

Sir,

Your letter of the 9th. has been duly received.—When I authorized Mr. Pearce to sell my flour, I limited him to the largest credit the circumstances of my own concert would enable me to give, consistently with my own wants & the arrangements I had contemplated.—To extend the credit ninety days longer, would not only damage my own plans—but, as the same causes will always produce the same effects,—at the end of ninety days, a further indulgence might be required.—

It is from the produce of this flour that Mr. Pearce himself;—all the Overseers,—and a variety of other incidental expences, are to be paid.—It is, and ever has been a rule with me, never to suffer a man to look for a just debt without receiving payment;—and before I left home (repeating it since) in very strong terms, I have directed Mr. Pearce to settle with every one, and pay to the last farthing I owe; that there may be no after claim when he is gone, either upon his successor or myself. I mention these facts and circumstances, to show you how inconvenient it will be for me to comply with your request.

Nevertheless, being unwilling to distress anyone, if it be possible to avoid it, I shall direct Mr. Pearce in the letter. I am about to write to him, to say, to ascertain the aggregate sum required, to pay the demands upon him, on my account, and if you will give him the most & equivocal surety of paying it on, or before the 24th of December (that he may have time between that and the first of January to clear himself out;) and will give unquestionably security also that the residue shall be paid on or before the first day of March.—both sums carrying interest from the day they have become due until paid that he may fix the matter with you agreeably thereto. I cannot forbear aiding, however, that the receipt of the whole sum, on the day it becomes due, would be infinitely more pleasing to me. but if this cannot be, you are to expect no favor from me in case of a second disappointment.—

I am—Sir,

Your Very Hble. Servt.

To Mr. Alexr. Smith. G. Washington.

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, 27th. Decr., 1796.

(Private)

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that your cold is obstinate, & your indisposition continues.

If it will permit you to give a little attention to the Virginia address, to day, that it may be dispatched by the Post of tomorrow, I would thank you.—

In the moment I received it, I sketched something by way of an anoner, but whether I have therein said too much, or too little for the circumstances attending the address,—or whether those circumstances ought to have the least influence in the reply (notwithstanding as you will perceive by the Gazette enclosed, & which I request may be returned, what the temper of the State

is relative to the Administration) is problamatical:—Therefore, and because you are better acquainted with the Legislature of politics of Virginia than I am I would be guided by your advice and accordingly, if your health will allow it, I should be obliged to you for an entire new draught of an answer, on such unreserved corrections of the one sent as you may think is perfectly applicable to the case—civil & unexceptionable. —I wish you better health and am your sincere friend and Affectionate Servant

G. Washington.

P. S. If you are unable to attend to this matter, pray send the papers back by the bearer.

To Atty. Genl. Charles Lee, Esqe.

[Philadelphia] January 13th., 1797.

Dear Sir,

For want of a Memo. from the Overlooker of my Carpenters (which I thought I had brought with me from Mount Vernon) I am unable to furnish an accurate Bill of the Plank & Scantling my purposes require;—but as the former of these never comes amiss to me, I would enage

5000 feet of Inch
2500 Do of 1 ¼ &
1000 Do of 1 ½
} as free as possible from sap.

and should be glad to know from the person in whom you could most confide, whether upon receiving a Bill of Scantling & an additional 9 ft. of Plank, after I return home, I could be supplied therewith,—delivered at Mount Vernon, & in how short a time after receiving the said Bill.—With very great esteem & regard

I am—Dear Sir
Your Obedt. Servant
G. Washington.

To The Honble. John Henry

PHILADELPHIA, 5th. Feb., 1797.

Mr. Anderson,

Your letter of the 1st. instant, with the weekly reports are received.—

If all that part of the new road from the causay to the white gates is completed and fit for use, it has gone on better than I expected; and makes me wish more that the other part was done; that the *whole* might be fit for use against my return, but I do not desire it to be attempted to the injury of more important work.—

When Davy is about the fencing at Muddy Hole, let that part on which the gate is (going into the farm) be continued in a straight line, as it now runs, until it strikes the new road, and then in a parallel line therewith, until it joins the fence again on the hill, before it reaches the causay after which, to run as it now does towards No. 6, when over that part of it shall be repaired.

The method you propose, to get the Peas, from Mr. Lawson Carter, is much better than sending all the distance by land, in the state the roads now are, & will be until they are well settled after frosts are entirely over.—But notwithstanding these peas as promised by that gentleman, I would not have you be too sanguine of the receipt of them, unless you should receive *from him, positive* assurance thereof—the quantity—and when, and how they are to be obtained.—Of course, it may not be amiss to devise, in time, what is to be done in case of failure.—

I consent to your cultivating in corn the field at Dogue run which is mentioned in your letter, and leave the whole arrangement, of the crops at Union farm to your own judgment, but you have not attended to the quantity in that part of Va. which lyes between the meadow, mill road lane going into the Barn therefrom, if you suppose it contains 80 acres.—it will amount to more than 50 at most.—

In clearing that piece of Mill swamp adjoining the road (and I am glad you have undertaken it) do not think it too much of single trees thereby stripping it of both shade & ornament.—I am perfectly satisfied of the great quantity of ground I have, capable of being converted into good meadow and have wished always to do it—but, these wishes (and being so much from home) have not met the means of accomplishment.

Grain harrowed in, certainly looks better in Autumn, than that which is planed;—but in land which is apt to heave (or spew as it is called) the moulderings on the ridges when ploughed, gives, as is supposed, fresh earth and nourishment to the roots and therefore is preferred by many farmers—experience only, in such soils, can alone decide the question.—

I shall be able to ascertain on good conjectural grounds what may be expected for flour & will let you know when, and at what price to sell.—In the meantime keep me advised of the prices of that article in Alexandria.

As spades, shovels, scythes, nails, nail rods—Iron plates for the mould boards of ploughs—Bar iron & most other things can be had upon better terms here than in Alexandria—& as I must engage a vassal to carry my furniture round—let me know the quantity, & sorts of each of these articles that will be wanted—& any others and I will endeavour to provide them.—Do you not want Riddles for gleaning grain &ca.—How many and of what degrees of finess?

Send me the sizes of the four rooms on the lower floor (at Mount Vernon) which open into the passage.

Have you Buck Wheat for Seed? although my attempts, hitherto, to raise it as a crop, and for a green dressing have never answered my expectations, yet I am very willing it should undergo further trials.

I think of nothing more, at present, necessary to

add—but wishing you well in all your plans I remain
Your friend
G. WASHINGTON.

To MR. JAMES ANDERSON.

PHILADELPHIA, 6th. Feb., 1797.

Dear Sir,

The 3d of March which is fast approaching, will put an end to my political career; and I shall have another to commence through mud & mire, to reach more tranquil scenes at Mount Vernon.—This I shall do without delay, or attempt it at least, be the roads in what condition, they may, at that time.—

To enable me to accomplish this journey, with such baggage as I do not incline to risk by water, I shall want a pair of strong horses that are true & steady to the draught fera waggon, lighter than a coachee, to carry some trunks (not heavy) at the rate we shall travel, which must be soon.

Would you oblige me so far as to make this purchase, and to have the horses in this City by the first day of March?—I should prefer Mares, and wish them to match in (any) colour.—They ought not to exceed Six, or at any rate seven years old next spring—nor ought they to be under fifteen hands high.—As they will be put to the Plough, or Waggon, after I get them home. I should prefer cheapness to appearance; & the reason why I mention Mares instead of Geldings, is, that Mules may be bred from them afterwards—but I must take either.

Be so good as to let me know, without delay, whether I can, or cannot, place certain dependence on you for the purchase, & having them here by the time before mentioned.—The money shall be paid on delivery; or if required, shall be sent to you before; for the purpose of instant payment.—

I will offer no apology for giving you this trouble, because I persuade myself you are disposed to serve me in it.

With esteem I am—Dear Sir
Your Obedt. Servt.
G. Washington.

P. S. Let me request the favor of you to have the steadiness of the horses to the draught proved, before they are sent here;—for to be plagued with them on the road would be dreadful—

To Mr. Matthias Slough.

Philadelphia, Feb. 7, 1797.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed is the copy of a letter I wrote you agreeably to the date; but as it was to take its chance from the stage office, and letters by private conveyances do not always get to their destination, I trouble you with a duplicate; as well on that account, as because I find my journey home requires the purchase of a third horse, or Mare, for the draught.—

This third one, must, in every respect, be conformable to the description of the last one except (as it is to go with three others which I have) that it ought to be a *bay*, and of somewhat better figure.—For the reason mentioned in my last, I should prefer, greatly, Mares; and if they were to be here before the first of March (that they might be exercised together, & with breast plates instead of collars) it would be desirable.—

At any rate let me hear from you as soon as convenient that I may know what to depend upon.—With esteem & regard,

I am—Dear Sir—
Yr. Obedt. Servant
G. Washington.

To Mr. Matthias Slough.

PHILADELPHIA, 27th Feb. 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 22d. inst. was delivered to me yesterday morning by Mr. Root, who also delivered the Mares & horse.—The latter being too clumsy about the head & legs to suit my carriage horses, and too high in price for a common plough horse, I return him; since, as you say, no inconvenience will attend it.—I must now, as I expect to leave this in ten days, depend upon purchasing a horse, or Mare in this City or neighbourhood.—You will please therefore to take the price of the Mares, and whatever incidental expenses have been incurred in getting them and the horse here, out of the Six hundred Dollars sent you.—I have paid Mr. Root nothing, as you did not mention, in your letter, on what terms he was to bring them down:—whatever you do in this case will be satisfactory to me.—

I am very sensible of the polite attentions of the Inhabitants of Lancaster, as expressed by you; but as I am anxious to get home, and shall have almost as far to it from that Borough as from hence, and the Road after quitting the Turn pike very little better, I shall pursue the most direct & usual rout to obtain the end.—For the good wishes you have expressed for me, on the anniversary of my birth, I pray you to accept the best thanks of

Dear Sir
Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

To MR. MATTHIAS SLOUGH.

MOUNT VERNON, 12th June 1797

Dear Sir,

If you have had leisure to examine my unimproved lot in Alexa, more attentively, and have digested any plan in your own mind for an advantageous

division of it, I would thank you for the result, as I wish to fix on a Plan.

I was informed, when in Town last, that Mr. Voss (I think the name is) would give 18d. a sqr. yard for the earth to make bricks—& that he would not deface, or injure the lot in doing so.—What is your opinion on this point?—

Mr. Anderson *has* engaged me in a distillery, on a small scale, and is very desirous of increasing it:—assuring me from his *own* experience in *this* country, & in *Europe* that I shall find my acct. in it; particularly in the benefits my stock would derive from it.—The third is new to me, in toto; but in a distillery of another kind (Molasses) you must have a good general knowledge of its profits,—& whether a ready sale of the Spirit is to be calculated on from grain (principally to be raised on my own farms) and the offal of my mill. I therefore have taken the liberty of asking your opinion on the proposition of Mr. Anderson.—Such a house as he requires, except the Stiles, I could provide at a small expenditure.—

With very great esteem & regard
I am—Dear Sir
Your affecte.
G. Washington.

Colo. John Fitzgerald.

Mount Vernon, 14 June, 1797.

Revd. Sir,

It is with regret I find myself under the necessity of becoming an apologist for others.

Until lately I had no other expectation, or wish, than that the two misses (my nieces & cousin to each other) were preparing for their journey to & establishment at Bethlehem.—But I am informed that one of them (Maria Washington) on whose acct. the first applica-

tion was made, is in very declining health (in short that she is in a consumption) and the before adjudged by her Aunt, with whom she lives, is unfit for the charge which had been contemplated and as a principal inducement to the other's (daughter to Colo. Bab) going was that they might continue together, I have been advised (both living at a considerable distance from me) that, under the circumstances I have related, it is not intended now, to send either.

I hope, as it always appeared to me that your consent to admit these girls at the time you did—the School being full—was matter of favour, for which I felt the obligation, that no inconvenience will result from the change which has taken place.

With very great esteem & respect,
I am Rev. Sir
Yr. Obedt. & Obliged Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

To Mr. Jacob Van Vleck.

Mount Vernon 25th June 1797

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 11th. of Feb: and a duplicate thereof, have been duly received, and I pray you to accept my best thanks for the trouble you have had in tracing to its origin, the history of the Sword which came to my hands last year in the manner communicated in a former letter,—As it is more than probable you will have left Holland before this letter can be received I shall give you no further trouble in the affair than merely to inform you that I have never seen, or heard more of Alte than the account given of him in your letter of the above mentioned date.—

I am now, as you supposed the case would be when you then wrote, seated under my Vine & Fig-tree; where, while I am permitted to enjoy the shade of it,

my vows will be continually offered for the welfare & prosperity of our country; and for the support, ease & honor of the Gentleman to whom the administration and its concerns are entrusted.—I have expressed to him my sentiments, & wished that you may be induced to continue the Diplomatic line; and these sentiments and wishes, are the result of the general conviction of its utility, as it relates to the public interest.—

For the kind expression which you have extended to me, for the approbation of those sentiments I have the honor of subscribing to my countrymen unsought Valedictory, I have a grateful sense. I thank you for communicating then, the approbation of good & wishes, which is the most pleasing reason my mind is susceptible of, for any service it has been in my power to render my Country.

With great truth & sincerity, I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Your most Obed. & Affec.

G. Washington,

John Quincy Adams, Esqr.

Mount Vernon, 26th. June, 1797.

Sir,

From the good report I have had of your improved threshing machine, I am desirous of getting one or two of them erected, and as expediously as possible.—

The Scaneling for two, upon the Plan of Mr. Jefferson & others, of the Scotch machine, had been got before I received the account of yours; and may, I presume, be appropriated to the latter. The purpose therefrom of this letter, is to know if you would undertake to erect mine,—so, if your other engagements should prevent your personal attendance, whether a person in whose knowledge & skill in the matter, you cd. place *entire* confidence, could be sent;—or, lastly

whether you could spare time to make me a visit for the purpose of directing my own Carpenters (six or 7 in number, & some of them competent to follow any direction) to proceed to the execution, and for which die compensation would be made you.

I must beg the favour of a speedy answer (by Post to Alexandria) that I may know what I have to rely on; for if I cannot have them erected upon your plan in a short time, I shall proceed upon the one I had at first contemplated, so desirous am I of getting my Wheat out early.—

I am—Sir
Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

To Mr. William Booker.

Mount Vernon, 26th June, 1797.

Dear Sir,

When you informed me that Mr. Booker was erecting a threshing machine for one Gentleman in your neighbourhood, I expressed a wish that he would come hither, but intended before we parted to have been more pointed in my request on this head, but your trip to the Federal City and early departure the morning after you returned, were the occasions of my forgetting to do so.—

Let me now ask the favour of you, if Mr. Booker is at the place you supposed he would be, to endeavour to engage him to proceed (and at as early a moment as he can make it convenient) to this place; if it was only for the purpose of directing my people, if he could not himself remain to see the execution, how to proceed;— The cantling for one of the Scotch machines being already prepared, wants only a director to make the alterations, "put it together. —For his time, and trouble he shall be paid.—At any rate, if this letter should get

to your hands, let me know what dependence I can have on Mr. Booker.—

I have discovered many of the Hassian flies in my Wheat since you left this; but their attack of it was made too late to do it much injury; but as they may be considered as the harbingers of those that are to come, I am under considerable apprehensions from this threatened calamity.—I began my Wheat on Thursday last, and find the growth good, however short the crop may be.—

Present our love to Mrs. Carter and be assured of the great esteem & affectionate regard of

Dear Sir

Your Obedient Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Charles Carter, Esq.

Mount Vernon, 26th June, 1797.

Dear Sir,

Until last week, I had no suspicion that the Hassian fly was among my Wheat, but upon examination I found there were many.—They have come too late *this year*, however, to do me much damage; but as I view them as the harbingers of those who will visit me next year, I would guard, as far as it may be in my power, against the threatened evil.—

Permit me therefore to ask, if from your own experience, or from that of others on what you can rely it is ascertained whether Rye or Barley (Winter or Summer) is liable to this calamity?—In the country above me, the Wheat, I am informed, entirely destroyed (in places) by this fly and from the appearances of them among mine it is but too probable it would be the case with mine next year, if I do not substitute other grain in its place.—But what grain is the important question? Are oats affected by these flies?

Where this calamity has not visited the Wheat the grain is remarkably fine, and the quality not to be heard of.—Present me, if you will do it in respectful terms to Mrs. Peters thereto with the compliments of Mrs. Washington.—With great esteem & regard I am—Sir

Your Affectione. & Hble. Servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To RICHD. PETERS, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, July 2, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I have been in continual expectation of hearing that Colo. Shreve had deposited the amount of his second instalment in the Bank of Pennsylvania, agreeably to contract; but as a month has elasped since it ought to have been done and no account of a payment there—and as it has been usual with him to offer these in driblets—by anybody—at any time—& in any manner—regardless of his obligation thereby depriving me of the advantage of counting upon the money at the period when it becomes due which was a principal inducement to the sale I have enclosed you his Bond with a request that would put it suit, or take such other measures to obtain payment at his cost as you shall deem expedient.—Below is the sums which have actually been recd. The Instalments.—My best respects are presented to Mrs. Ross, & with very great esteem & regard—I am always,

Dr. Sir

Yr. Obedt. Hble. Servant.

G. WASHINGTON.

To the HON. JAS. ROSS, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON 3d July 1797

Dear Sir

Not believing that Congress would adjourn so soon as some expected;—and hoping that Colo. Shrave would

not lay me under the necessity of putting his Judgment Bond in suit, I have forborne until now, to send it to Mr. Ross for that purpose.—But as I believe he is one of that description of men who have very little idea of punctuality;—and as my wants require all my resources, I have now forwarded it under cover to you:—but request that you would be so good before the letter which encloses it is handed to Mr. Ross, to enquire at the Bank of Pennsylvania if Shreve, or anyone in his behalf, has deposited therein for my use the sum of about two thousand dollars.—In case this is done, I pray you to return to me my letter to Mr. Ross.—If there be no deposit, then to give, or send it to that Gentleman by a safe conveyance.—

By the public Gazettes, two things seem to be certain:—Preliminaries between France & Austria of Peace, and a dangerous Crisis in England.—A third however is necessary to give tranquility to this country, and that is *actual Peace* between the latter & France. Whether that would produce harmony is at least problematical, for I am sure the views of some among us would not be promoted by such an event.

The letter for Colo. Biddle I would thank you for sending to him—present me, & the family to Mrs. Wolcott,—and be assured always of the esteem & friendship of

Your affectionate
Go. Washington.

Oliver Wolcott. Jr. Esqr.

Mount Vernon 7th July 1797

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st, instant was brought to me by the last post.—

The Journals of the 1st. 2nd. & 3rd Sessions of the first Congress, I have, & no later.—These are in folio—

one volume of the Senate, and another of the House of Representatives.—If no complete set can be had, either in folio or octavo, it would be useless to obtain a copy of what I now possess; but if they are to be continued in the latter, and an entire set could be had of that size, it would be preferred on account of uniformity.—

Please to accompany the copying press with the account of cost, & the amt. shall be transmitted in Bank notes.—

With great esteem & regard I remain—Dear Sir
Your Obedient & Affecte. Servt.
G. Washington.

Colo. Timothy Pickering.—

Mount Vernon, 7th July, 1797.

Sir,

Your letter of the 3d instant from Richmond was recd. by the last Post, and I embrace tomorrow's mail, the first since its arrival, to thank you for your attention to my request;—to inform you that I shall be much pleased to see you here between the 20th & 27th according to promise;—and that the scantling got for the old shall either be accommodated to the new thrashing machine, or other provided by the time above mentioned:—and will have the Iron, and everything else ready to avoid delay which cannot well happen as I have half a dozn. Carpenters, & blacksmiths of my own.—

Should anything happen (wch. I hope will not) to prevent you from being here at the appointed time, be so good as to inform.—

Yr. Most Obedt. Servant
G. Washington.

To Mr. Willm. Booker.

MOUNT VERNON, 10th. July, 1797.

Dear Sir,

By the last Post I was honoured with your observations "on the disputes between the United States and France" and for your polite attention in sending them to me I pray you to accept my best acknowledgments.—

Being on the point of celebrating Harvest home, I must be allowed, as a Farmer, to make every other matter yield to the accomplishment thereof,—that being over, the Pamphlet, I am persuaded, will be read with edification and pleasure by

Dear Sir

Your Obedt. Hble. Servant

G. WASHINGTON.

To ROBT. GOODLEE HARPER, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON 11th July 1797.

Sir,

Inclosed you will receive a copy of the courses and distances of my tract of 7276 acres of Land on the Great Kanhawa, adjoining Poketallico Creek.

I am obliged to you for giving me the offer of 2000 acres of your land in that quarter, but my own want of money induced me to sell two tracts of near 5000 acres in the Counties of Washington and Fayette in the State of Pennsylvania for much less than the real value of them.—but

If you are going to the Kanhawa, and it should fall readily in your way of do it, I would thank you for information, when you return, of the situation, or rather circumstances, under which my lands on that River are, for I am totally in the dark respecting them.

I am–Sir–Yr. Obedt. Hble. Servt.

Go. WASHINGTON.

MR. JNO. W. BRONAUGH.

MOUNT VERNON, 15 July, 1797.

Sir,

Since my last to you, dated in Philadelphia the 6th. of March, I have been honoured with yours and Lord Hawkes joint favour of the 28th. of March 1796 introductory of Doctr. Scandella; who gave me the pleasure of his company in June last, and whom I found a very sensible, and well informed man.—

I have also received your separate favours of the 2d. of February and 29th. of March, in the present year: The last accompanying your printed account of the origin of the Board of Agriculture and its progress for the three years after its establishment.—For your kindness in forwarding of them, I pray you to accept my best thanks.—

I will keep one copy of this work myself, and shall read it, I am sure with pleasure, so soon as I have passed through my harvest, which is now nearly finished;—the other copies shall be put into such hands as I conceive will turn them to the best account.

Your not having, in either of the letters acknowledged above, mentioned the receipt of two from me, dated the 10th. & 11th. of Decr. 1796,—the last a private and very long one, fills my mind with apprehension of a miscarriage, although I do not see how it should have happened, as they went with several other letters under cover to Mr. King (our Minister in London) who in a letter to me, dated the 6th. of February following after giving information of what he had done with my other letters, adds "and as soon as Sir John Sinclair returns to town I will also deliver the letter addressed to him."—

Was it not for this information I should, by this conveyance, have forwarded a duplicate.—

The result of my enquiries of Members of Congress attending the December Session, varied so little from

the details I had the honour to give you concerning the prices of land as in my private letter of the 11th. of December as to render a second edition unnecessary.—The reduction however, in the price of our produce since last year, (flour having fallen from fifteen to Seven or eight dollars a barrel, and other articles in that proportion) may occasion a fall in the price of Lands.—A stagnation it has already produced—and I have been told a reduction also, in some of the latter sales.—

Our crop of Wheat this year from the best information I have been able to obtain, will be found very short, owing to three causes;—an uncommon drought last autumn,—a severe winter with but little snow to protect it,—and, which is a little more to be regretted,—to what with us is denominated the Hessian fly which has spread devastation, more or less in all quarters nor has the latter Wheat escaped the rust.—The grain, however, except where the Rust appeared before it was hard is extremely fine.—We are equally unlucky in our Oats, occasioned by a severe drought since the month of April.

With sentiments of high esteem and regard, I have the honor to be Sir,

Yr. Most Obedt. Hble. Servant

To Sir John Sinclair G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 17th. July, 1797.

Sir,

My Overseers at Union and Dogue run Farms are endeavouring to play the same game they did last year—that is to raise their wages; but as I am fully resolved that to do it (especially as the price of produce is reduced a hundred pr. ct.) I am induced to ask you—as Clark who engaged with Mr. Craik is dead, & expectation from that quarter is at an end if you could

recommend a person whom you know would suit me, for Union farm?

It is not impossible but that I may reduce the hands at Union farm & place it and Dogue run Farm under the same Over par,—but since in this case, I will not give more than Sixty pounds wages, with the usual allowances of Provisions.—

I shall insist upon a Dairies being attended to by the Overseers wife and that Fowls shall be raised for my Table:—And that nothing sold from the Farms for *their* benefit, as the wages with the allowances of Provisions is all the man & his wife have to expect.

I would thank you for acknowledging the receipt of this letter by the Post as soon as it gets to hand, that I may be certain of its safe arrival:—and as soon after as possible, let me know (without absolutely engaging any one) what dependence I could place on you getting a good man; with, or without a wife, but not too large a family.—It is necessary I should hear from you soon on this subject, as some are offering, & the season for engaging good overseers is at hand.—

I hope to hear your health is restores to you, and that your crops have been, and are likely to be good. My crop of Wheat is as good as I had any reason to expect, but the Hassian fly began just before harvest to cut it down.—Next year I expect their attack will be formidable & severe.—Could we base dependence on purchasing three or 4 hundred bushels of Rye in your neighbourhood and at what price?—

I wish you & family well and am your friend
& Hble. Servant
G. Washington.

P. S. The drought is, and has been extremely severe upon us.—Corn not half leg high. What will be the outcome if cut?

To Mr. William Pearce.

MOUNT VERNON 21st July 1797

Dear Sir,

I again take the liberty of requesting that the letters herewith sent may accompany your dispatches to Mr. King—who I also hope will have the goodness to excuse the trouble I give him in this business, to insure the safety of the dispatches.

I hope I shall not have occasion to give either of you much more trouble in this way, as correspondencies of this sort were not of my seeking, and I have no disposition to keep them up, except with Sir John Sinclair (President of the National Board of Agriculture) on Agricultural subjects.—

One of the last productions of this Gentleman I transmit to you, with a request that if the Plan of establishing a similar Board in these United States should be re-entered upon at the next Session of Congress, you would be kind enough to lay it before the Committee which may be appointed for the purpose of preparing that business.—I am always your Obedt. & Affecte.

Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

COLO. TIMOTHY PICKERING.

MOUNT VERNON, 23d. July, 1797.

Dear Sir,

Receive my thanks for the information given in your letter of the 3d. of July, and for the offer you have obligingly made, of procuring for me, seed of the Yellow bearded wheat.—

Influenced by the opinion which prevailed some years since that that kind of Wheat would resist the Hassian fly I then procured seed of it, & have kept myself in stock ever since, to make use of it upon a larger scale, if occasion shd. render it necessary. And so

well persuaded as I am that the attack of this insect will be severe next year, I shall reduce considerately, my seeding of Wheat the coming Autumn; and fill the deficiency with Rye, principally.—Of Wheat, however, I shall sow three kinds:—the early, or May wheat, as it is called here, in a small proportion—and the residue of the Yellow bearded, and a very fine white (also Wheat which I obtained last Fall from the mountains.

Soon after I wrote you last the Rust seized my Wheat, straw and a good deal injured the latter grain. And a severe drought which we have laboured under since April, until this day week, has rendered our crop of Oats extremely short & rendered our meadows scarcely worth cutting and till *now*, by a second fine rain yesterday, left no little hope of making Indian Corn.—

Present me & Mrs. Washington in affectionate terms to Mrs. Peters, and be assured of the sincere esteem & regards

Dear Sir

Your Obedient & Hble Servt

G. Washington.

To Richard Peters, Esqr.

Mount Vernon 31 July 1797

Dear Sir,

I did not expect that I should have had occasion to trouble you again relative to my administration of the estate of Colo. Thomas Colvill.—But the Gentleman who instituted the suit in the Chancery Court of this State informs me that it is indispensable that an affidavit of the Decree's having been published two months successively in an English paper (as appears prima facia to be required) should be returned—and he wishes *much* to possess the same by the next term, in March, early.—

Taking it for granted that the Decree has been published two months successively, I presume and hope there can be no difficulty in having it testified by the Editor of the paper in which it was inserted, and forwarded to me by duplicate.

Excuse me, I pray you, for giving you this trouble, and be assured always of the high esteem and great regard of

Dear Sir—Your obliged & Obed. Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

RUFUS KING, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON 7th August 1797

Sir,

I know nothing of the Bond of which you speak in your letter of the 4th. instant.—If any such is in my possession *unsettled* (of which by the bye) I do not believe; it must, by frequent shiftings and removals, have got so out of place as to render it impracticable for me to find, as there is no such bond where it ought to be, if I had it.—By my books, I find the account of Mr. Kirk thus stated

Dr. To balance of yr acct. on my Mill Book £58. 7. 10¼
Cr. Settled by the assignment of a Bond of
Magee's 58. 7. 10¼

So far as my memory serves me, the Bond was inadequate to discharge the above balc. with interest due thereon,—but as it was with difficulty I could get *any* thing, and this was likely to be the *whole*, it was taken & recd. as discharge, & the Bond given up:—for the name of Magee is not to be found in my Book of %.—I am Sir

Yr. Hble. Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

MR. ARCHD MCLEAN.

MOUNT VERNON, 11th. Aug. 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your favours of the 20th. ult. and 7th instant have both been received—the last yesterday.—

If nothing happens to prevent it, I will dispatch a light cart (not being disposed to lead the calf the whole distance this warm weather for Mr. Lloyds present, and two or three sheep from Mr. Gough if he has of the sort I want, to dispose of.—The cart will leave this on Monday, and probably be at Baltimore on Tuesday.—

In the meantime, if you should perchance see Mr. Gough you would do me a favour to ask if he has of the cape sheep kind one of which he would recommend for trading not the broad tail sherp is the kind I want—if he has a ram, and one or two ewe Lambs of his *best* I would take, at his own price—If he has none my cart would have no occasion to proceed there.

For your kind attention to my late request I pray you to accept my thanks—and with great esteem & regard—I am Dr. Sir

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To NATHL. RAMSAY, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 13th. Aug., 1797.

Sir,

Having occasion to send a light carriage to Baltimore, I have directed the person (Mr. Jno. Anderson of my Manager) who has charge of it, to call upon you & get a ram, and two ewe lambs of the Cape (broad tail) sharp if you have any to dispose of, & such as you would recommend for breeding.—

I want them on account of the mutton, and if the ram was of the size & age to serve a score or more ewes this season, it would be desirable.—If Mr. Anderson

succeeds in his application for these sheep, the cost of them shall be paid to your order on demand.

I am Sir

Your Most Obedient and Very Hble. Servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To HENRY D. GOUGH, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 13th Augt., 1797.

Dear Sir:

The bearer, Mr. Jno. Anderson, son of my Manager, (with a light carriage) is sent for the calf from the Eastern Shore, and the sheep mentioned in my last, if Mr. Gough has them to spare.—If you have not seen that Gentleman, and learnt that Anderson's going to him would be fruitless, he is directed to proceed with the letter of which he is possessed for Mr. Gough.—

I would thank you for causing the enclosed advertisement to be inserted three times with the interval of a week between each the expence of which I will pay the Printer as soon as it is made known to me.—Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed & fatigued from the want of such a character as I am inviting.—

Does the Baltimore Telegraph come under the description of a Democratic or Repub.?—or what is its character & reputn.

With great esteem—I remain

Dr. Sir—Yr. Obedt. Servt.

To COLO. NATHANIEL RAMSEY. G. WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, 14th, Augt., 1797.

Sir,

Your favor of the 17th ulto. came safe, but a good while after date.—For the sermons you had the goodness to send me I pray you to accept my thanks.—The doctrine in them is sound, and does credit to the author.—

It does, indeed, give me pleasure to have such sentiments as Mr. Curtis has expressed to you, transmitted to me; and it would render *him* and *all* his friends an acceptable service if in your letters to him you would endeavor to stimulate his pride—to impress upon his mind the advantages to be derived from education and the wishes of his friends that he may turn out a finished scholar—and finally that this is no otherwise to be accomplished than by close application and a continuation at college.—

To overcome an indolent temper,—amusements at present innocent but unprofitable and to excite him to exert the talent which he possesses—constitute the difficulty at *present.*—By & by, perhaps, bad example, or the advice of dissipated young men, may increase it considerably.—He has, I know, a friendship and regard for you, and I am persuaded your opinion on these topics would have a happy effect.—With esteem & regard,

I am Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.
G. Washington.

To The Revd. Mr. Zachariah Lewis.

Mount Vernon 14th. August 1797

Dear Sir,

Not having anything to communicate of sufficient moment to give you the trouble of receiving a letter from me, I have delayed until now to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 10th. & 25th. Ulto.—

When I left Philadelphia, Mr. Lear and Mr. Dandridge who remained, were directed to dispose of my Household furniture (such parts I mean as were not packed for a removal to this place) but from some misapprehension the ornaments of my dining Table, & some Plated bottle Coolers, were not disposed of as

was expected, but left in the care of Mr. McHenry (Secretary of War) subject to future orders, when they came away.—

I have now to request that you will receive these from him, and if you can, to dispose of them (one of the Coolers excepted, concerning which I will write to you sometime hence) on the best terms you can.—It is not probable that any one, unless the Presidt. or any of the foreign Ministers should be so disposed, would take the *whole* of course to *retail* them, would be the most likely means of getting them off.

The articles you will receive, if I mistake not, will consist of two four bottle coolers.—A Platteau in nine pieces.—three large groups with glasses over them, two vases, and twelve small single figures of Porcelain.

The Invoice of the Platteaux I am unable, at present, to come at, but that of the figures is enclosed, as is the one which contains the cost of the Coolers which were never used—there being four, originally, and two were quite sufficient to answer my purposes.—I do not expect, notwithstanding they are new, that the one offered for Sale will fetch the cost, and the other things, I am certain will fall much below it, as they have not only been used, but the Porcelain in some of its nicest parts, is injured;—although I have not been able to find the cost of the Platteaux, I have a memorandum which informs me that they stand me in 486 Livres *in Paris* exclusive of all the subsequent charges of transportation from thence to Havre, original insurance, duty to the United States.

I send the Invoices for the satisfaction of yourself, and my wife may be inclined to purchase.—when this purpose is answered they may be returned to me.—

Will you be so good as to ask Mr. Dobson if there are no more Volumes of the American Edition of the Encyclopaedia out:—the 16th. is the last I have re-

ceived,—and inform him at the same time that it is my wish that my second sett (for I subscribed for two setts to encourage his undertaking the work) be neatly bound and sent to me, having given away the sett in boards.

With esteem & regard—I am
Yr. Obedt. Servt.
G. Washington.

Colo. (Clement) Biddle.

Mount Vernon 14th. Augt. 1797

Dear Sir,

It is a little out of time, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th. ulto.;—but better late than never:—and one object in doing it, is to pray you to thank Mr. Bordly in my name, for the work he had the goodness to send me, through the channel of your conveyance.—

I presume the affair of Mr. Bloust will lye dormant until the Committee of Congress make report at the ensuing Session.—It will be to be regretted, *much*, if this business is not probed to the bottom. That Government may not sleep and be forgotten in the meantime. I perceive Mr. Morse has opened a Battery against it, but if his subsequent fire does no more injury than the first, his artillery will recoil upon himself.

It had escaped me, until reminded by a re-perusal of your first letters, that my Table ornaments & Coolers were in your possession. Not for the value of the thing, but as a token of my friendship, and as a remembrance of it, I ask you, Colonel Pickering & Mr. Wolcott to accept each one of the two*bottle coolers—the other articles I pray you to have carefully packed (the porcelain in fine sawdust) and sent to Colo. Biddle, who

will be directed what to do with them—& will pay the cost of packing.

What is the character of Porcupine's Gazette?—I had thought when I left Philadelphia of ordering it to be sent to me;—then again I thought it best not to do it, and altho' I should like to see both his & Bache's *The Aurora*, the latter may, under all circumstances, be the best decision, I mean not subscribing to either of them.—

Mrs. Washington & Miss Custis thanks you for your kind remembrance of them, and join with me in best regards for Mrs. McHenry and yourself and family.—With much truth I am

Your sincere friend and
affectionate Servant
G. Washington.

P. S. I shall rely on you to present the Coolers in my name to the Gentlemen above named.

*I think there are three of them.

James McHenry, Esqr.

Mount Vernon, 20 Augt., 1797.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 22d. of May last, from Belfast; and wish it was in my power to give you a more satisfactory statement of the decd. Mrs. Savage's affairs in this country than I am about to detail.—

True it is I was one of that unfortunate lady's trustees,—and as true, that while I was in a situation to render her any services I performed them (jointly with the other trustee) as far, and as fast as the tedious delays of our Courts would suffer justice to be administered.—

But from the year 1774 until the beginning of the year 1784, it was not in my power to attend to hers, or

any private concern of my own being absent from this State (Virginia) eight years of the time; during the whole of which, and for sometime after, I believe there was a suspension of all law, and all justice, except such as proceeded from a sense of honour, the last of which was no trait in the character of Doctr. Savage, husband of the Lady, for of all ingrates he was the most ungrateful.—

While alive, and the Courts were open, he had recourse to all the chicanery of Law, and all the subterfuge of Lawyers to avoid paying her annuity, and since his death, his Estate, if any, for there are various opinions concerning it, and much contention arising therefrom, would render it uncanded were I not to add, especially as the heirs of his Security (also dead) have pleaded the want of associates that it is my opinion, strengthened by the Report of the Revd. Mr. Fairfax, the other Trustee (who I believe has done all that circumstances would permit) that little is to be expected from the prosecution of this business.—

The Suit is still going on, but without sufficient means to support it from hence, and the circumstances already mentioned it has too much the appearance of throwing away good money after bad, to proceed.— So far as I have an individual interest in the matter the hope of a return of the money which I advanced Mrs. Savage in her distress, when it was not in the power of her Trustees to force payment of the annuity and other expenditures in common with Mr. Fairfax has vanished long since.—

Having but lately returned home from a second eight years absence, which with many interruptions for public purposes between which has prevented my taking any active share in this business for upwards of twenty years, I have given it as my opinion to Mr. Fairfax, that it would be best to offer a percentage, or

a good fee to the lawyers prosecuting the suit for the claimants under—Mrs. Savage's Will, for all they can recover on this account; and to receive *nothing* unless they do, by way of stimula to their executions: what effect this will have, or whether any, remains to be decided.—

I am,
Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

To The Revd. Newburgh Burroughs.

Mount Vernon, 20th. Augt., 1797.

Sir,

Your letter of the 2d. instt. came duly to hand, and I wish with all my heart you would meet with such employment as your talents are suited to; but if you cannot obtain this in Philadelphia where your character is best known, it is not likely you would succeed better where you are less acquainted, and in places less populous.—

There is none within my view, in this quarter, in any of the lines to which you allude; and if you look for anything in a public way you are already in the best situation to make the application with a prospect of success, as the President will, unquestionably, require the best testimonials that can be obtained of your fitness for Office and these can only be had from those to whom you are known.—If you are pleased to send one of your Poems to me Colo. Bidlad will conceive pay, & forward it—to

Sir—
Yr. Obedt. Servt.
G. Washington.

To Mr. Jno. Searson

MOUNT VERNON, 23rd. Augt., 1797.

Sir,

I feel, sensibly, your kind & polite attention to me, in the presentation of a bull calf of your *improved breed.*—A very fine one indeed, it is, and merits my particular thanks, which I pray you to accept.—

My stock of *all sorts* has been much neglected during my eight years' residence from home, and will take more time than in the usual course of nature will be allowed me, to improve that *much*, but with the means you have been so good as to furnish me, and other aids, I shall, by proper attention put my black cattle into a way of improvement.—

I am sorry to hear of the disease & consequent degeneracy of your sheep.—Before I left home in the Spring of 1789 I had improved that species of my stock so much as to get 5 ¼ lbs of Wool as the average of the fleeces of my whole flock,—and at the last shearing they did not yield me 2 ½ lbs.—By procuring (if I am able,) good rams and giving the necessary attention, I hope to get them up again for they are with me, as you have declared them to be with you, that part of my stock in which I most delight.—With esteem & regard

I have the honor to be

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To HENRY D. GOUGH, Esqr.

MOUNT VERNON, 1st. Sept., 1797.

Sir,

Your letter of the 30th of July has been received, but not until within the last three days.—Your judgment bond was long before sent to Mr. Ross to bring suit on. What he has done in the matter I know not.—

To sue, cannot be more unpleasant and disagreeable to you, than it is to me; but as the want of money, and

THIRD WIFE OF TOBIAS LEAR

(Frances Dandridge Henley)

Also a niece of Martha Washington, and it was to her that the quilt, shown in the other illustration, was given

a punctual payment of it, were the only motives to sell my lands in the Counties of Fayette & Washington, so a disappointment in these must defeat the objects which I had in view; and has been because of the prosecution to which I have resorted.—

You would not be unacquainted with the nature of your contract for the land in Fayette County, nor with the tenor of your Judgment Bond, given to fulfil it:—of course, you must have known the amount of the sums as they became due and that they were to be paid at the Bank of Pennsylvania on a certain day, by Instalments;—why then would you trust to others to do your business; and by sending a little money by this, and a little by that man who knew not what to do with it when they got to Philadelphia, hazard the disappointments which followed? especially as that mode of payment was purposely guarded against in the contract, as one from whence I could derive no substantial benefit;—Whereas regular payments in the manner Colo. Richie has made them would have given me (although the land sold low) all the advantages I expected to derive, from the sale of the lands.

Not knowing what Mr. Ross has done in the premises, I know not what further to say in reply to your letter.—If the arrearages are paid up, with interest to the time they became due, and the instalments regularly discharged afterwards, agreeably to the conditions of your Bond, it is all I require and all I can wish;—for far is it, from my desire to embarrass, or injure your character by a Law suit:—but if punctuality is not observed on your part a suit for the reasons I have already assigned will be the inevitable consequence.—And I do now, in explicit terms declare that it may be of no avail to see that such an one is to pay so much, another so much, and so on—I shall have nothing to do with any of them; because I shall expect each years

Instalment will, by the time it becomes due be deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania, & made liable to my draught.—This is a very simple mode, and what I shall rightly exact.—I have no Agent in Philadelphia to whom I would give the trouble of receiving money, nor do I want partial sums lodged there. The amount of the Instalmnt. must be known to you, and the times of there becoming due.—My appropriations will correspond therewith—but nothing short of the whole sums will answer my purposes.

I am—Sir

Your Very Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Colo. Israel Shreve

Mount Vernon, 2nd. Sept., 1797.

Sir,

Your letter of the 25th. ulto. came to hand by the last Post.—

The ground Rent of the lot I have offered to lease in Alexandria, is three dollars a foot, for what it measures on *each* street.—This I must obtain as an annual Rent on the lot will not be disposed of in that way.—

I am Sir,

Your Very Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Mr. James Harrison

Mount Vernon, 4th. Septr., 1797.

Sir,

I am going to take a liberty with you, for which I rely more on your goodness, than on any excuse I can make, for pardon.

A person of the name of Anthony Hensler, a German (in the vicinity of Baltimore) has offered himself to me as a Gardener.—He professes to understand that

business in *all* its branches, and *well* in each, representing himself moreover as a person of some property, and very sober.—He adds that, his wife (about his own age) is a very decent woman, and capable of the duties of a Housekeeper.—

Such characters would be useful to me at this time; but I told Mr. Hensler that I would not employ strangers, in either of those capacities, without ample testimonials of their qualifications; and with respect to himself that they must go to these points.—1. Skill in the line of his profession—2. Honesty—3. Sobriety—4. moral character, generally.—5. orderly deportment—and 6. industry, for although I usually employed two or three negroes under my hired Gardener it was not for the purpose of exempting the *latter* from manual labour.

For information respecting these matters he has referred me to you; (who he says has a knowledge of him from his having lived on some estate of yours. On this ground then it is, I am induced to ask the favour of you to give me the character of Mr. Hensler.—It is not easy to conceive that his wife, to whom according to his own account he has been married upward of 20 years can, from the station she has filled, without having previously acquired it, be well qualified for keeping such a house as mine but if she is neat in her person, sensible, active, honest & spirited; and possesses any knowledge in cookery, she might be very useful to Mrs. Washington notwithstanding.—

I must again pray your excuse for the trouble this application must give and request that I may as soon as is convenient, hear from you on this subject.

I am Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Genl. O'Donald.

Mount Vernon in Virginia
15th. Septr. 1797.

Sir,

Your letter of the 12th. of May has been received, but not until within these few days:—to which you will please to consider the following as a reply.—

Having been long in public life, and but little in this State for the last five and twenty years;—and moreover, having had but very little agency in the Administration of the deceased Colo. Thomas Colvil's affairs, even antecedant thereto, no consideration short of being the *surviving* Executor of his Will and the imperious necessity occasioned thereby of bringing matters to a close, could possibly have induced me to resume any agency therein.—

Under these circumstances however, I have at all times, of late, when it was in my power, used my best endeavors to have the accounts closed, in order to ascertain the surplus which that Gentleman had bequeathed to the nearest relations of his mother, of the names of Stott, Wills, Richardson and Catherine Smith, of Durham; or their descendants:—and with much difficulty and the aid of a Gentleman (Mr. Keith) well acquainted with this sort of business, have accomplished it, as you see by having recourse to a notification in the London Gazette of December last, consequent of a decree of the high Court of Chancery in this State.

The persons just named, or those claiming under them, may, perhaps be disappointed at the smallness of the sum—viz—nine hundred and thirty two pounds, seventeen shillings and seven pence three farthings, estimating dollars at Six shillings; which upon the final settlement was found to be the surplusage of the Testators estate after his Debts and specified legacies were discharged; but if they will advert to the clause

of the Will under which they claim, & which was published in England many years ago, there ought not to be any surprise, as it there appears that the *Testator himself* was in doubt whether there would be *any overplus estate.*

The reason why that sum (now actually in the Bank of Alexandria) was submitted to the decision and disposition of the Chancellor was, because there had been so many claims exhibited;—so vague a nature;—and some of them accompanied by such unjust and indecent insinuations, that I did not incline to inquire into the merits of the respective claims, or to become responsible for the distribution of the money.—All those who have pretensions under the Will to a share in the beforementioned sum, will now know where I have sent their proofs; & to receive an order for their proportion of the Devise, having nothing more to do in the matter myself. I am—Sir

Your Obedient Hble Servt.

MR. GEO. PEARSON. G. WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, 18th Sepr. 1797.

Mr. Hensler,

I should have written to you at an earlier period, but for the following reasons.—

First, because as I informed you, I had written to Scotland for a complete gardener under indentures; and expected every day to learn the result of my application.—I could not therefore, enter into engagements with another without hazarding a disappointment toone of the parties ,or a surplusage of men in that line, which would have been useless, and inconvenient to myself—and secondly, because I requested you not to forego any other plan you might have in contemplation, while I remained in the state of incertitude I had expressed to you.—

I have now, within a day or two, received a letter from the Gentleman to whom I applied in Scotland, to engage me a Gardener, promising that he wd. endeavour to comply with my request, & hoped he should succeed; thus, the matter stands on uncertain ground yet.

The presumption however is, that a few weeks will decide whether I am to receive a Gardener from Scotland, or not:—If the latter, I will delay no time in giving you notice thereof, and will accompany the communication with the specific terms on which I would employ you:—which, if you shd. be disengaged at the time, will require no other answer than yea or nay.—

I can only repeat now, what I said to you when you were here last, that from the circumstances I am under, & the uncertainty of the case, it is not my wish, or desire that you should avoid any employment worthy of your acceptance, in expectation of getting into my service.—I remain,

Your friend &ca.

G. Washington.

To Mr. Anthony Heusler.

Mount Vernon, 24th Sept., 1797.

Sir,

I have examined my land papers, but find I possess none which relate to my purchase from Mr. Simon Peason, all of them having been turned over, with my transfer, to Mr. Lund Washington.—

I can form no idea of what Graften Kirt &ca. are to exhibit in evidence on this occasion.—I sincerely believe that all the proceedings in, & docking of, the entail of the land to which Mr. Thos. Pearson now sets up a claim, were strictly conformable to law, and of more validity than Grafton's testimony; whose character;

if I have not an erroneous impression of it, is not *quite immaculate*, but so much the reverse, as to be a ready witness upon all occasions.—Nothing suggests itself to my mind as ground on which a suit can be instituted, unless it be alledged, that some of the Jurors were not freeholders a thing I never have heard surmised, and strange indeed to be proved, five & thirty years after their verdict was given and (as I presume) admitted to record.—

The Deeds, if well drawn, do, no doubt recite the case, & names of the Jurors.—but admitting the foregoing mistake in the Sheriff, would a Court of equity suffer an innocent purchaser to sustain an injury from the misconception or inattention of that Officer to his duty?—I think not.—

You told me on Saturday that Simon Pearson left no legitimate children, and that his Brother Thomas was the *lawful heir*, but to whom has descended or rather to whom bid Simon (if he left a will) bequeath his Estate?—For if there be any irregularity in the process of docking the Entail, and Thos. should, which I think not at all likely, recover the land for which he is contending, that estate must be resorted to:—I cannot surely be in possession of Thomas, for in that case the contest wd. be with himself, because he wd. have *to pay* for all he obtained.—

When you know the result of the evidence you are summoned to hear, I shd. be glad to be informed of it—& with esteem

I am Sir

Yr. Very Hble. Servant

To Mr. William Triplett. G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 3d. Oct., 1797.

Sir,

I have already erected a threshing machine on Mr.

Booker's plan, and was on the point of putting up one or two more when I received a letter from a Gentleman of my acquaintace informing me that you had invented one which did more execution with less force.—This has induced me to suspend the erection of those on Mr. Booker's plan, until I can receive better information relative to yours, and this is the cause of my giving you the trouble of receiving this letter and praying that you would be so obliging as to give it.—

The advantage which Mr. Booker has over the Scotch machine (which I never saw) lyes, it is said, in being less expensive, & less complex—particularly in the substitution of a band in place of cogs & rounds; which, as I have understood, with the expense thereof, is the principal objection to the latter.

Not having heard whether you have obtained a Patent, for the invention of yours, or mean to apply for one, I would not have it understood that my application for information into the principle on which yours act—the power which works it—or the execution—is calculated to deprive you of any benefit which might result in either case.—

The object of my enquiry is merely to know whether yours (nothing being more interesting to the farmer) is upon a simple plan & not easily put out of order in the hands of ignorant negroes & careless overseers,—whether cheap, & easily erected, what the execution,—and with what force it is worked; together with the manner of working it—and the house proper for its reception.—

If in these particulars, on a fair comparison with Mr. Booker's it obtains a preference, I shall certainly, as I am about to provide conveniencies of this sort for getting my erect yours instead of his; and whether built by my own people or others I am willing to allow the Patent fee if it exists, or to stand upon the

same footing that others do to avail myself of the best discovery in this or any other country to effect so valuable an end.—Your answer to these queries would very much oblige me as ulterior measures depend upon them & my want of machines to get my grain out in a clean and expeditious mode I hope you will have the goodness to excuse the liberty I have herein taken and to believe that I am Sir

Your Most Hble. Servt.

To Mr. Thomas C. Martin. G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 9 Oct., 1797.

Dear & Revd. Sir,

I have duly received your several letters of last month,—but as an expression of my regret, in the conduct & behaviour of young Curtis would avail nothing I shall not trouble you by the attempt.

I am persuaded that your conduct towards him has been such as friendship inspired, and the duties of your important truth required.—And as you have seen, in a degree, what my solicitude advice & admonition have been, he will have himself only to upbraid for any consequences which may follow—and this perhaps comes too late.

By Mr. La Fayette who is on his way to New York to embark for France, I send you bank notes to the amount of $100 in discharge of the balance of the acct. transmitted (65)—the twenty advanced Mr. Curtis when he left Princeton and any other unpaid bills which may hereafter appear—And with thanks for your polite attention to, & care of him while he was under your superintendence, I remain with the highest esteem, regard & respect,

Your Obedt. Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

To The Revd. Doctr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.

MOUNT VERNON, 10th. Oct, 1797.

Dear Sir,

In answering your favor of the 28th. ulto. which has been duly received I wish it was in my power to give you more satisfactory information than you will find, in this letter relative to the land near Suffolk.

Some years ago (before, if my memory serves me, I was called to administer the Government of the U. States) Mr. John Lewis, as Executor of his father, Colo. Fielding Lewis. Will, informed me that the circumstances of that estate required that his father's interest in the lands wch. were bought by him, your father & myself, lying as above, should be sold.—In reply, I told him that any bargain for it that Doctr. Walker & himself would make, I would abide by.—Since which I have never heard a tittle from either on this subject—nor do I know in whose possession, or under what circumstances the lands now are.—That they are not sold I am inclined to believe, because the title papers are still in my care, & no application has ever been made for them.—

These from a cursory examination appear to be from

	Acres
Josh. Jones to G. W. T. W. & F. for 2 tracts	872
Jas. Wright" Do Do Do	50
Stepn. Wright Do Do Do.	100
Kings Patent Do Do Do	188
Total	1210

I thank you for offering to sell me your interest in the above lands, but I have no disposition to become the purchaser, having lately sold my share of the Company property in the Dismal Swamp, and formerly a tract adjoining thereto, held by the deceased Colo. Lewis & myself; I shall be willing, however, at any time, to join

you & Mr. John Lewis in disposing of them to any other purchaser.—

With esteem & regard I am Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Francis Walker, Esqr.

Mount Vernon, 15th. Octr. 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your favour dated Elizabeth Town October—has been duly received.—I am sorry that the state of your health should deprive me of the pleasure of your company at this place.—and I regret still more that the pain you feel from the wounds you have received though glorious for your reputation is the occasion of it.—

Whatever I can do as a private citizen (and in no other capacity I can now act) consistently, with the plan I have laid down for my future government, you may freely command.—You will find, however, contrary as it may be to your expectation or wishes, that all pecuniary matters must flow from the Legislature and in a form which cannot be dispensed with—I may add I am sure, that your claim upon the justice & feelings of this country will meet with no delay—Nor do I suppose that the loss of your certificate will be any impediment.—Your rank and services in the American Army are too well known to require that testimony of your claim and the Books of the Treasury will show that you have received nothing in discharge of it—or if any part, to what amount.—With the highest esteem & regard and respect.

I am, Dear Sir

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

To General Tadeusz Koscienszko.

MOUNT VERNON, 15th. Oct., 1797.

Dear Sir,

The Fish you had the goodness to send me arrived very safe; and are excellent.—for your recollection of that request of mine, and the trouble you were at to obtain the best kind, I pray you to accept my grateful thanks.—

The money, as you desired, was paid to Captn. Silver, to the amount of your memorandum of their cost,—and they shall be stored, & dressed agreeably to the directions contained in your letter, forgiving which I feel myself obliged.

No man wishes more devoutly than I that a stop was put to the further effusion of blood;—that harmony was restored to all nations,—and that justice was done to ours;—but I must confess that my *hope* of seeing these accomplished *soon*, exceed my *expectation*.—The affairs of Europe seem to me to be in so purturbed a state —and the views of the principal actors so discordant that it is not easy on rational principles and fair calculation to predict events.—

Nothing is wanting in ourselves to steer clear of the vortex of misery, which has brought so many of the nations of Europe to the brink of ruin in this desolating war, but unanimity;—and if a steady adherence to the principles which have hitherto directed our councils is unable to effect this, it will nevertheless I hope avert the evils which, otherwise might be expected to flow from the persevering opposition which is levelled at our government; and all those who stand forward in support of it.—This is my creed, and I shall believe in it until the contrary is verified, which Heaven revert! Adieu, with very great esteem and regard I remain Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient and very Hble. Servant

G. WASHINGTON.

To The HONBLE. BENJAMIN GOODHUE.

MOUNT VERNON, 15th. Octr., 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 28th ulto. has been received and I sincerely regret the continuance of the malady which afflicts the city of Philadelphia and the Seaport Towns but hope the frosts which we have lately had & the approaching cold, will eradicate the disorder.—

The season rendering the Room for which I wanted a in a manner useless for the purpose it was designed I have procured one in Alexandria.—although it is not altogether such as I wanted, a very good shift can be made with it, and as it supercedes the necessity of those I had written to you for, I have now to request you will decline sending them, or either of them.—The other matters you will be so good as to send when an opportunity offers.—With esteem & regard

G. WASHINGTON.

To COLO. CLEMENT BIDDLE.

MOUNT VERNON 15 Octr, 1797.

Revd. Sir,

Your favour of the 20th of Feb. has been received, and I am indebted to you for many other unacknowledged letters.—The trouble is, I soon found after, entering upon the duties of my late public stations that private correspondencies did not accord with official duties: and as I determined to perform the latter to the best of my abilities, I early relinquished the former, when business was not the subject of them.—

It might be asked, why suffer the letter of the 20th. of February (which is of the latter description) to remain unacknowledged after I had, months past, bid advice in my public walks?—The answer is easy;—an eight years' absence from home (excepting short occasional visits) had so deranged my private affairs;—had so despoiled my buildings;—and in a

word, had thrown my domestic concerns in to such disorder, as at no period of my life have I been more engaged than in the last six months, to recover & put them into some tolerable train again.

Workmen in most countries, I believe, are necessary plagues;—in this where entreaties as well as money must be used to obtain their work, and keep them to their duty, they baffle all calculation in the accomplishment of any plan, or repairs they are engaged in;—and require more attention to, & looking after, than can well be conceived.—Numbers of these, of all descriptions, having been employed by me ever since I came home (to render my situation comfortable the ensuing winter) has allowed me little leisure for other occupations.

Rural employments while I am spared (which in the natural course of things cannot be long) will now take place of toil—responsibility—and the sollicitudes attending the walks of public life;—and with vows for the peace, the happiness & prosperity of a country in whose service the prime of my life hath been spent,—and with best wishes for the tranquility of all Nations, and all men, the scene will close; grateful to that Providence which has directed my steps, & shielded me in the various changes & chances through which I have passed, from my youth to the present moment.

I scarcely know what you allude to in your letter of the 20th of Feby. when you say "I observed in the Philadelphia papers mention made of a volume of your epistles, domestic, confidential & official" unless it be the spurious letters which issued from a certain Voss in New York during the War, with a view to destroy the confidence which the army and community might have had in my political principles;—and which have lately been republished with greater avidity &

perseverance than ever, by Mr. Vache, to answer the same nefarious purpose with the letters.

I supposed every attack that was made upon my Executive conduct (the one just mentioned among the sett) to pass unnoticed while I remained in public office; well knowing that if the general tenor of it would not stand the test of investigation, a newspaper vindication would be of little avail.—But as immense pains has been taken by this said Mr. Vache, who is no more than the agent or tool of those who are endeavoring to destroy the confidence of the people in the officers of Government (chosen by themselves) to dessiminate those counterfait letters, I conceived it a piece of justice due to my own character, and to Posterity, to disavow them in explicit terms;—and this I did in a letter directed to the Secretary of State to be filed in his office the day on which I closed my administration.—This letter has since been published in the Gazette by the head of *that* Department:—

With respect to your own request, I can say nothing, so many things are continually given to the public of which I have no previous knowledge—nor time indeed to inspect them if I had been therewith informed—that I may mistake the meaning of it.—The late Secretary of State (now Vice-President) permitted a Mr. Levy—my consent being first obtained—to take copies under his inspection of the letters I had written to Congress; which letters have since been published and are I presume genuine, and must be those which you refer to.—But as they are the work of another, who is now in England on this business, I cannot suppose that you had it in contemplation to derive a benefit from his labours.—I shall only add therefore that discretion in matters of this sort must be your guide without a Yea or nay from me.—

For Politics I shall refer you to the Gazette of this

country, with which I presume you are acquainted, & with respect to other matters, I have nothing wch. would be entertaining, or worth narrating.—Mrs. Washington too unites with me in best wishes for the health & happiness of yourself and Mrs. Gordon—and I am with esteem & respect—Revd. Sir

Your Most Obedt. & very Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

The Revd. Doctr. (William) Gordon.

Mount Vernon, 16th. Oct., 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 2d. instt. came duly to hand.—For the persual of the enclosure I thank you. It is returned.

We heard with much concern, but long after the thing had happened, of the accident which befel your son.—We hope he is perfectly recovered from the fall, and you from your billious attack.—

Having no news to entertain you with, and could only fill a letter with the perplexities I experience daily from workmen, and other occurrences of little moment to any besides myself, I shall conclude *this* letter with best respects in which Mrs. Washington and Milly Custis unite to Mrs. McHenry and yourself and with assurances of being

Dear Sir

Your Affecte. friend

G. Washington.

To James McHenry, Esq.

Mount Vernon, 26th Oct., 1797.

Sir,

Since you left this, yesterday I have conversed with my Manager on the subject of flour, according to your desire.—

The result is, that on Tuesday next, provided immediate notice is given, he could have fifty barrels of Superfine at Alexandria.—It would, however, employed as my Boats are in getting materials together for my Distillery, be vastly more convenient for me to deliver it to a vassal at my mill.—

If you to be the above mentioned flour I shall expect eight dollars and a half per barrel for it.

I am—Sir

Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.

To Mr. Barry. G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 27th Octr., 1797.

Sir,

The enclosed letter from Mr. Brooks your brother, to Mr. Anderson my Manager (who were acquainted) is the best apology I can offer for giving you the trouble of receiving one from me.—

It is the wish of Mrs. Washington that Mrs. Forbes, would without delay, repair to this place with her clothes &ca. where (if she has been an acceptable and competent housekeeper to you, while you filled the chair of Government of this State) there can be little doubt of her answering our purposes and will be retained on the terms mentioned in my advertisement which was inserted in a Richmond Paper.—

If Mrs. Forbes comes in the stage, which I presume will be the case, she might stop at the Widon Lund Washington's (close on the Road between Colchester & Alexandria) who will either send her hither, or let us know that she is there.—

A previous knowledge of the characters, one has to do with, being of some importance, you would do me a favour in giving (and it might be confidentially if you prefer it) that of Mrs. Forbes.—Besides care; & a knowledge of the duties of the station—one who will *see* to

the execution, answer as direct the measures of the Servants is indispensable in my family One too who has spirit to enforce her orders—on doing which she will have every proper support.

I pray you to excuse the liberty I have taken in making this request.

I am Sir,
Your Most Obedt. and Very Hble. Servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

To ROBT. BROOKE, Esqr.

MOUNT VERNON, 30th Oct., 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your favors of the 30th of August and 8th. of September have remained unacknowledged, because I had nothing to communicate that could compensate for the loss of a moment of your time, which I know is too much occupied in matters of business to be interrupted by unimportant letters.

Having received the enclosed letter by the Ganges, in the twilight, and attending to the first part of the superscription only, I broke the seal before I discovered that it was of a public nature. And the direction of the Spanish letter being somewhat equivocal, I send it also; as well, for that reason as because I could not read it after it was opened,—both to be disposed as you shall see fit.—

I thank you for sending me your answer to the very improper letter of Mr. de Grujo, who merited less respectful treatment.—The copying press came safe, but does not work well; whether for want of more springs I am unable to determine.—Having a small one (which used to be getting out of order frequently, but at present does tolerably well) I do not use it at all.—Should the smaller one fail, I will send the other, and ask you to have its defects rectified.

From the last Philadelphia Reports respecting the Yellow fever, it is to be hoped that that dreadful malady has ceased, and the distressed Inhabitant are returning to their long, forsaken homes.—I wish it devoutly, on public as well as private considerations, for an equivocal state of that disorder would place the President in an embarrassing situation.

With very great esteem & regard
I remain—Dear Sir,
Yr. Obedt. & Affect.
G. Washington.

To Colo. Timothy Pickering.

Mount Vernon 30th Oct 1797

Sir,

Your letter of the 21st Instt. has been duly received, but ignorant as I am of the motive which has induced you to send me an extract of the Law of 1780 relative to recruits, for the army, I know not what reply to make.

Matters of that sort, I never had anything to do with, as Commander in Chief of the American Army;—and never having speculated in any Soldiers certificate, or Rights of any kind or nature whatsoever, I am, perhaps, as little competent to give an opinion thereon (if I understood your meaning) as any man in the United States.—

I am Sir
Your very Hble Servant
G. Washington.

Mr. Jacob Valentine.

Mount Vernon, 3 Nov., 1797.

Sir,

I shall preface this letter in answer to yours of yesterday, with a declaration as sincere as it is solemn,—

and that is, that if it was in my power, I would take no advantage of you in the proposed exchange of Lands;—nor would I wish you to make a bargain with me that either you yourself or your friends (such I mean as are competent judges) should hereafter say was disadvantageous on your part:—for be assured I should derive no pleasure from a contract of which you might have just cause to complain.

Having made this declaration, it remains to be added, that both of us may err in the comparative value of our respective lands.—You, perhaps, proceed upon what you conceive to be the present selling price of such lands as yours are, in this country,—which, abstractedly is fair; but if I mistake not, lands here are not only at a stand, but on the decline; while on the other hand, I go on a thorough conviction in my own mind, that such as I offer in exchange and which in some instances *I know*, and in all believe are of the first rate, will increase.—I form this opinion from analogous circumstances;—for since I have been an actor for myself, Frederick and Berkeley courtier were deemed much more remote & in fact out of the inhabited world—that the Kanhawa is now:—and land, which I then bought in the former at five pounds per hundred acres, and the highest (on account of small improvements) at twenty five pound, per hundd. I could now sell, very readily at five pounds *an acre*.—But this is digressing from the point, and I will return to it again, after making one more observation which in my opinion is literally true & important—namely—that it is not the number of acres you receive in exchange for your land, that is to render that exchange valuable,—there are a great many local considerations which must contribute to this.—I aver, most seriously, that I wd. not give my tract of 10990 acres on the Kanhawa for 50,000 acres back of it, & adjoining thereto, nor for any 50,000 acres of the

common land of the country, which I have seen, back from the water, & in one body.—And I have no doubt but that the land immediately back of mine might *now* be bought for half a dollar or less pr. which and on acct. of the extensive range that cannot for series of years be interrupted, renders these bottoms so extremely valuable.—

In offering you three of my tracts on the Kanhawa, containing together 12,276 acres for yoir sugar land tracts *entire*, I conceived I was by no means deficient in proposing an equivalent, especially as these three tracts would have given you a boundary on the Rivers of near 25 miles, of the richest low ground in that ctry.

It is true and so I informed you that I had never been on either of these tracts and have only the Surveyors report and other information on which to form my opinion of the quality of the land.—They may be less, or they may be more valuable than the lower tract for ought I know to the contrary. Two reasons however, induced me to reserve the latter.—1st a knowledge of the tract from my *own* inspection of it—because *it was the lowest* on that River and not more than 3 miles from Mount Pleasant.—A place which must, as soon as tranquillity is perfectly restored be of considerable importance from its situation at the junction of two important Rivers running in different directions through so large and fertile a tract of country.—

This letter is written not with a view to exculpate myself from any suspicion which might arise of my not meaning to offer you an equivalent for your land, that from any expectation I entertain of our coming to a bargain, for it can hardly be supposed that I would allow the whole of my lands to be picked, whilst the most valuable part of yours (or your sons) is reserved.—If however, upon reconsidering the matter you should be disposed to let the island go with, and become part of

the exchanged lands, I will, on my part (as you have expressed a wish to make an exchange) consent to part with my lower tract on the Kanhawa also; and if there is any likelihood of our agreeing on a just proposition of quantity and value of my land for yours, I would on some early day which you may name (before the weather gets cold) ride up with you and your son (for I shd. like that he should be perfectly satisfied before hand with whatever is done) and look at your Londoun lands having at present not the least knowledge of the quality of them, neither from investigation or information, and because—which I frankly declare to you previously that it is not a trifling consideration that wd. induce me to part with my lower tract on the Kanhawa with the situation, local advantages, quality and value of which I have formed an opinion—not from information but from my own accurate view—not from information—but from my own accurate view, having been on it three or four days and hunted from one end to the other of the bottom.

Your answer to this letter will at once decide whether there be any prospect of our bargaining, or not and I should thank you for giving it to me as soon as it is convenient.

I am Sir

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Danl. McCarty.

Mount Vernon, 6th. Novr., 1797.

Dear Sir,

Since writing to you a few days ago I have been favoured with your letters of the 26th. and 30th. Ulto.—

If you should have occasion to write to Mr. Parish of Hamburg, you would oblige me by thanking him in my behalf, for his very polite & friendly offer of sending me

anything I might have occasion for from that place.—

It would be more formal than necessary, to introduce Mr. Bucknall Orchardist to the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia otherwise than through you.—If then you will be so good as to relate the manner in which it came, & present it with my best respects to that body, I will thank you.—With very great esteem & regard,

I am—Dear Sir

Your Obedt. Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

Colo. Timothy Pickering.

Mount Vernon, 6th. Nov., 1797.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 2d. ulto. with its enclosure came duly to hand, and I feel myself very much obliged by the favorable footing on which you have placed matters with Colo. Shreve.—These are perfectly satisfactory to me and of which I should have informed you sooner had I not supposed that the most certain though perhaps not the quickest way of making it known to you would be to lodge my letter in Philadelphia against your arrival there.—This I am about to do in the hands of Colo. Pickering.—Whatever mode, under the derangements occasioned by the sore calamity which has afflicted that City, you shall find most convenient to yourself, will be agreeable to me, for depositing the same in the Bank of Pennsylvania which has been paid you by Colo. Shreve on my acct. but it might not be amiss to add that the $500 have been paid into that Bank for my use, no advice of it has been given to me.

I am perfectly convinced that your observations and opinion with respect to the most advantageous mode—to wit—laying off my lands on the Ohio into lots of about 200 acres is correct, and the best way to make the most of them.—The reasons which have weighed against

it hitherto with me, are first it is troublesome, sd, may be tedious in its operation and 3d. my object being to convert the Land aggregately into money, on some kind of stock that I might derive a convenience & benefit from the interest during the short stay which from the natural course of things I have to remain here, the end would not be answered in a retail way without, in a manner, sinking the capital.—But as you have been so good as to mention this mode will you permit me to ask what you think what the land would sell for by the acre divided in the manner you suggest—and whatever there is within your view, any person in whom confidence could be placed as an Agent to manage this business, who has sense and inclination to undertake it for an adequate compensation?

I wish you an agreeable Session and perfect unanimity in all great questions which involve the dignity, honor and interest of our Country.—With very sincere esteem & regard,

I am—Dear Sir
Your Obedient and Very Hble. Servant
G. Washington.

To the Honble. James ross.

Mount Vernon, 13th. Nov., 1797.

Dear Sir,

The running off of my cook, has been a most inconvenient thing to this family; and what renders it more disagreeable, is, that I had resolved never to become the master of another slave by *purchase*, but this resolution I fear I must break.—

I have endeavoured to hire, black or white, but am not yet supplied.—A few days ago having occasion to write to Mr. Bushrod Washington on other matters, I asked if one could be had in Richmond,—the following is his answer.—

THE HOMES OF WASHINGTON (TO THE LEFT) AND ROBERT MORRIS, PHILADELPHIA
Drawn from memory by C. A. Poulson.

Mr. Brooke (late Governor) informs me that he had a very excellent cook, with no other fault than a fondness for liquor (which often afforded him too many opportunities of indulging) who is now in Fredericksburg, and is to be sold.—I shall write to the Gentleman who has him not to sell him till he hears from you. Should you *under this character* wish to buy, or hire him, please address a letter to Mr. George Murray of that place.—He cooked for Mr. Brooke "while he was in the Government."

Let me ask you now, to see both Mr. Murray & the man himself and if upon conversing fully with the latter you should be of opinion (from the account he gives of himself) that he is a good cook, and would answer my purposes then discover the *lowest terms* on which he could be had by purchase or on hire; & inform me of the result by the first Post so that an answer shall be immediately given.—

I should like to know the age and as far as you are enabled to ascertain it, the temper & looks of the man described.—whether he has a wife, and expects to have her along with him—and in that case, what children they have with *her* age & occupation.—By the time I can receive an answer from you I expect Mrs. Forbes who was Genl. Brooks housekeeper will be here as my housekeeper; and from her own knowledge of the person, and your account I shall be enabled to determine what answer to give.—Our loves to Mrs. Lewis &ca.

I am—Your affecte. Uncle

G. Washington.

To Majr. George Lewis.

Mount Vernon, 28th. Nov., 1797.

Dear Sir,

I have lately received a letter from a Mr. Small of Philadelphia, informing me that the coach I used in the

city was yet unsold,—that it was accumulating expence,—and not more than two hundred dollars had been offered for it, when, according to his acct. $300 was the value fixed thereon.

I intended to have sent his letter to you, but it has been mislaid, or lost—I shall beg the favour of you, however, to sell, or cause it to be sold, for whatever it will fetch.—Who limited the price to $300 I know not, but took it for granted that it had been disposed of many a day ago.—Receive, and place the proceeds to the credit of

Dear Sir

Your Obedient Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

To Colo. Clement Biddle.

Mount Vernon, 26th Feby., 1798.

Dear Sir,

When you were here last, I informed you that from the reputation which the College at Annapolis had, I was most inclined under every view I could take of the case, to send Washington to that Seminary; and, accordingly, had requested Mr. George Carteret (who informed me that he was going to that city) to converse with the President of the College on the subject & make other enquiries and to acquaint me with the result.—

Enclosed I transmit his letter.—It wd. have been more pleasing, and much to have been desired to have got Washington fixed in the house with Mr. McDowell; but this it seems cannot be, for reasons assigned by that Gentleman.—I think, notwithstanding, that he had best go there, as, from all accounts there is *less* of that class of people which are baneful to youth, in that City, than in any other, from the nature of its composition, and strictness of its Police—according to Mr.

Calvert's account,—and for another reason also seeing (as he confesses he has) what effect his misconduct has had upon his friends Pride, when classed with other students will operate in addition thereto, a more powerful stimulus, than it would in lonely, solitary reading & studies, by himself.

If he was to get to Alexandria, his studies must be conducted at the Academy,—or in his own chamber.—The first, after coming from a large & celebrated college he would consider as degrading & in the other case (being left alone) he would attend very little to them while Mr. Moffat was discharging the trust reposed in him at the Academy.—To expect after devoting the appropriate hours to his school boys that he wd. apply much of the residue to Washington is what he would not perform, *strictly*, was he to promise it.—And besides, from the information I have been enabled to obtain, the young People (those keeper clerks chiefly) are idle, dissipated and extravagant.—Acquaintances with some of these would be soon formed, and the consequences not difficult to predict.—From good authority I am informed that many of them spend in Taverns *more* than their wages amount to.—The deficiency must be supplied in some way or another.—

With respect to his (Washington's) remaining at this place, I am perfectly satisfied from the experience of the last few months that he has been here, that even under the constant care of a more illumined Preceptor than I am sure there is the least chance of obtaining, he would progress very little, and as the case now is, that he will forget what he does know, so inert is his mind.—

He takes Alexandria in his way to Hope Park to provide himself with such clothes as would be necessary.—At what time they must be ready otherwise than by promise, The suggestion of your accompanying Wash-

ington to Annapolis is contained in Mr. Calvert's letter & coincides perfectly with my ideas of the utility of the measure.—If it be convenient & agreeable to you to undertake the journey, you shall be informed when he is ready to commence it, or, if there could be any dependence upon the Tayler he could inform you himself.—If you cannot go, I will ask Mr. Lear to do it, but this will not answer as well—in either case the expense will be mine.—

Mrs. Washington has a very bad cold, the rest of the family at home as as usual.—Best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and all with you.

I am Dr. Sir

Your Obedt. & Affecte.

To David Stuart, Esqr. G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 17th. Mar., 1798.

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th. Ulto. came safe but was some time longer than might have been expected, on its way.—

As I think your charge for the prescription & application to Christopher (my servant) who was supposed to be bitten by a mad dog, is a very reasonable one, I send you enclosed a five dollar bank note of Alexandria (having no other paper money by me) without enquiring whether your not having received four dollars before, proceeded from the neglect of the Servant, or any other person.—

Christopher continues to do well, & I believe is now free from apprehension of any bad consequences from the bite.—I shall beg to be informed of your receipt of this letter, being unwilling that you should go unpaid.—

I am Sir

Your Very Hble. Servant,

To Doctr. Story. G. Washington.

Mount Vernon, 22d. June, 1798.

Dear Sir,

I am not disposed to withdraw your attention from more important matters;—or to be troublesome in any degree;—or to press my correspondence upon you.—But not having even heard whether my letter of which the enclosed is taken, from a press copy ever reached your hands, am induced to make the enquiry.—

I wish also to know what has been done with a letter of mine, put under cover to you (early in March last) to be forwarded, or suppressed at your discretion, to a Mr. John Parkes who exhibited Proposals to the Public, for compiling a complete edition of *all* the Journals of Congress, from the earliest period of them down to the present day?—With respect—I am— Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servant

G. Washington.

To James McHenry.

Mount Vernon 16th July 1798

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 12th. Instant, and thank you for your offer of becoming one of my Aids-de-Camp.

I have consented to accept the appointment to which my country has been pleased to call me, with the reservation not to quit my private walks until the army is in a situation to require my presence, or it becomes indispensable by the urgency of circumstances.—

Until one, or the other of these periods shall have arrived, I shall make no actual appointment of my Aids;—and as circumstances and a variety of considerations are required in regulating my choice, I must remain perfectly free and unengaged till then unless it should otherwise happen in a public interest.

Intoxicated and lost as the French seem to our principle of Justice, I yet hope that they will pause before they proceed further.—That they have been misled—and have made calculations on false ground, that equivocal decorating of the *People* on whose support their plan has been formed) to support Independance of the Government of their having *at every hazard* sufficiently evinced.—When to this happy circumstance, the issue then is added, & fully made known to them I can hardly conceive (although I think them capable of *any thing* that is unjust and dishonourable) that they will attempt a serious Invasion of this Country.—At the same time the highest possible obligation rests upon the Country to be prepared for the events as they may affect our means to avert the evil.—With esteem

I am Sir—Your most Obedt. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

MR. JAS. MARSHALL.

MOUNT VERNON, 5th Aug., 1798.

My dear Sir,

My *present* want of a riding horse is great,—but if I should be called to the field it will be much greater.

As I am much out of the way of seeing, or hearing of such as would answer my purposes—especially in the latter case—and know that you are a good judge of the parts, and general symmetry of a horse of figure. You would do me a favour if such a one as hits your own taste should fall in your way to buy him for me.—The cost to be paid on delivery.—

In age, I should not be willing to exceed Seven years—eight at most—younger, but not under four last Spring would be better.—For colour, I will not contend, but would prefer a *perfect* white,—a dapple grey—a deep bay—a chestnut—a black in the order they are men-

tioned.—The size & strength must be equal to my weight, which without the saddle may be estimated at 210 lbs.—Being long legged, or tall would be no recommendation, as it adds nothing to strength, but a good deal to the convenience in mounting.—

Under my circumstances, I cannot limit you in sum; but shall add that I never expected to be Master of a *riding* horse that was almost more than four hundred dollars.—

As I have no idea that Mr. David Randolph (being on a journey) would would have parted with the horse he thought might have suited me, I took but little notice of him; which I have been sorry for since and he is not within reach *now*. I asked him however what such a horse would cost, he answered four hundred dollars—that fine horses were scarce & dear.—Remember us in affectionate terms to Mrs. Fitzhugh & the rest of your family, and believe me to be as I sincerely am—always

Yours

G. Washington.

To Willm. Fitzhugh. Esq.

Mount Vernon 25th Jany. 1799

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 11th. of May, 16th. of July, 20th. of August, and 10th. of October are all before me.—The receipt of the two first I have acknowledged;—but as my letters wch travel across the Atlantic have not been fortunate in getting to their address, these may have shared the usual fate.—Being of little importance, however, no duplicate was sent nor copy taken:—Nor is it at all material *now*, whether they got to hand or not.—

Your letter of the 20th. of August found me in Philadelphia, whither I had gone at the request of the Secre-

tary of War, to aid in the formation of the New Corps, about to be raised; and in some other Military arrangements which were necessary, at that time, to be adjusted:—and coming in the nick of time, your then wish to engage in a Military career was attended to, and you were accordingly, appointed to the Command of an Infantry Company, in the first Regiment of Virginia, to be Commanded by Colo. Thomas Parker of Frederick, which has been rendered valid by the President and Senate since.—

The business which carried me to Philadelphia, detained me *in that City* from the 10th. of Novr. until the 14th. of Decr., and occasioned an absence from home of near Seven weeks, during which time I was so much occupied as not to be able to give you advice of this occurrence; and soon after my return, your letter of the 10th. of October came to hand informing me of your having been received into the family of Mr. King, as his Secretary.—

You have now, I presume the option of remaining there, or of accepting the Commission before mentioned. —In the choice of which you have your own inclination, & some other considerations to consult.—Both are attended with uncertainties, but which most so, is not easy to decide.—The augmented Corps, in which you are appointed, are by law, to exist no longer than the dispute with France shall continue; but how long this will be, will require more wisdom than I possess to foretell;—and you know, without information from me, what a bugbear a standing army (as a few Regiments with us are called, though liable to be disbanded at any moment, by withholding the appropriation for yr. support) is, in the eyes of all those who are continually raising Spectres & Hobgoblins to affrighten themselves, and alarm the People:—and how certain it is that ours (with their consent) will not exist a momt. longer than

it can be avoided by their endeavors; whether the cause which gave rise to it ceases, or not. Of the prospect before you in the Diplomatic line, you are as competent to judge of it as I am;—But, as it is probable the Commission will be held for you, until your determination is known, no time should be lost in announcing it to me, or at the War office.

Lawrence Lewis is appointed a Capt. in the Corps of light Dragoons; but before he enters the Camp of Mars, he is to engage in that of Venus with Nellie Custis on 22nd. of next month; they having, while I was in Philadelphia, without my having the smallest suspicion that such an affair was in agitation, formed their Contract for this purpose—Washington Craik is appointed a Lieutenant in the said Corps, & Washington Custis is made Cornet in Lewis's Troop; for it was found impracticable to keep him longer at College with any prospect of advantage; so great was his aversion to study; tho' adicted to no extravagent or vicious habits,—but from mere indolence, & a deriliction to exercise the powers of his mind, and those talents with which nature had blessed him:—The Army generally will be very respectably officered:—

The General Assembly of this State is in Command, by the account of its proceedings scanning into every kind of opposition to the measures of the General government, and on the extravagent Resolutions which folly can devise;—in what they will issue, it is difficult to say.—

I am sorry to inform you that your brother John Dandridge is no more. He paid the debt of Nature a few days since; after having (as we have been informed) been in bad health for some time.

Your Aunt, who is as well as usual, and Nelly Custis (Washington, however, is from home) unite with me in every good wish for you; and with thanks for your

offer of rendering me any services in your power, I remain

Dr Sir—Your Affece. friend & Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

Present me respectfully to Mr. and Mrs. King.

BARTHW. DANDRIDGE, Esqr.

MOUNT VERNON, 6 Feby., 1799.

My dear Sir,

By the ship Nancy from London, just arrived at Alexandria I have received four copies of the Prints of the deaths of Montgomery & Warren (the number of sets I presume I subscribed for) sent me by your brother.—

It is my wishes to make him a remittance agreeable to the terms of the subscription but having taken no copy of it not being able to recollect what is to pay, must be my apology for troubling you with this letter—presuming that the original Paper or a copy thereof might have been left with you, and moreover, that you may be empowered to receive from the subscribers in the *United States* the amount of their subscriptions, in which case, upon receiving the advice, I shall, instead of making the remittance of mine to London, transmit it to you.—

Whether anything was to have been paid in advance, & whether in that case I paid mine is more than I can decide without a resort for the letter to my Papers from Philadelphia which are *yet* to be unpacked, and arranged.

By a paper accompanying the Prints of Montgomery & Warren the other part of the original design is suspended, on account of the peculiarity of the times.

As I shall not write Brothr. Trumball until I hear from you, the sooner you can make it convenient to give

me the information herein required, the more agreeable it will be.—

I enquire frequently after you, & with pleasure hear always that you enjoy good health.—Mrs. Washington who is as well as usual, & Molly Custis who on my birthday (the 22d instant) will change her name to that of Lewis) a nephew of mine, and brother to those who lived with me in New York & Philadelphia unite in best wishes & respectful compliments to Mrs. Trumball & yourself with

My dear Sir
Yr. Most Obedt. & Affecte. Servt.
G. Washington.

To His Excelly. Jonathan Trumball.

Mount Vernon 26th Feby. 1799

Sir,

The Columbian Alphabet which you were so polite as to send me, came safe, and for which I pray you to accept my thanks.—It is curious, and if it could be introduced, might be useful for the purposes proposed; but it will be a work of time, it is to be feared, before it will be adopted generally.

I am Sir
Your most Obedt. Hble Servant
G. Washington.

Mr. James Ewing.

Mount Vernon, 28th. Feb., 1799.

Der. Sir,

The letter with which you were pleased to favour me, dated the first instant accompanying in your thanksgiving Sermon came duly to hand.—

For the latter I pray you to accept my thanks.—I have read it, and, the Appendix with pleasure; and, with the latter at least, could meet a more general cir-

culation than it probably will have, for it contains important information, as little known out of a small circle as the detrimentation of it would be useful, if spread through the Community.—

With great respect,
I am—Revd. Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

To REVD. MR. JEDIDIAH MORSE.

MOUNT VERNON, Mar. 1, 1799.

Dear Sir,

I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 11th ulto. from Roxbury, accompanying your Memoirs of the American War; which I accept, and dare say beforehand shall read, with pleasure, as soon as the bustle in which we now are engaged at the Wedding of our Granddaughter Miss Custis is over.—

If in doing it, occasion should be found to make any observations thereon, I shall avail myself of the liberty you allow me, to express my sentiments with the utmost candour and, freedom.—In the meanwhile, I pray you to accept my best thanks for the testimony of your friendship and politeness in sending me the work so elegantly bound—Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her.—and with great esteem & regard—I am,

Dr. Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.,
G. WASHINGTON.

To MAJR. GENL. WILLIAM HEATH.

MOUNT VERNON, 3d. Mar., 1799.

Sir,

Mr. Anderson has shown me your letter of the 23d. ultimo, to him, with an estimate of the expence of build-

ing horse mills, differently constructed.—For the trouble you have taken in this business, I feel myself very much obliged.

A Mill grinding from 15 to 20 bushl. a day, with two horses, would nearly, if not entirely answer all my purposes; with the occasional aid of the water mill which in the driest seasons, grinds a little.

For this reason I prefer greatly your last plan—namely—fixing a mill to one of the threshing machines now erected; if you are perfectly satisfied in your own mind that it will grind according to your estimate—even the smallest quantity that is 15 bushl. a day—and I prefer moreover annexing it to the machine at Union, as most central to the Farms, & more convenient on other accounts.—

Having thus determined, I am now to request, that you will purchase the best pair of Cologn stones (mentioned in your letter) and, if anything else can be much better prepared at Richmond than here, to provide & send the whole round by the first conveyance: and be ready to come up yourself to put the whole together, so soon as you shall be advised of their arrival.—

Being acquainted with the abilities of my tradesmen in their different lines, you know, of course, what they are capable of executing;—and as materials of all sorts (with a little previous notice) can be provided, and in the forwardness you may direct, on the spot, I am persuaded you will run me to no other expence to obtain them from Richmond than shall in your judgment, be essential.—You will please to advise me of the time I may expect you, & them,

With esteem—I am Sir—

Your Very Hble. Servt.,

G. Washington.

To Mr. William Booker.

MOUNT VERNON, 17th, Mar., 1799.

Dear Sir,

In April, after you quit the Walks of Public life (1797.) I agreed with one George Ball for the Land I held in Gloucester County; on account of which, he made me a small payment of £200, or thereabouts;—was to have paid about three hundred more the April following; and the bale. in two annual instalments thereafter.—Since which I have never seen Mr. Ball, nor have heard from him on this subject.—And what is still more extraordinary, I do not know whether he removed to the Land, or where he now lives; consequently, do not know with certainty at what place to direct to him.—

This, my good Sir, must be my apology for giving you the trouble of the enclosed; in order, if he lives in Gloucester (on the land) that it may be forwarded to him;—if not, to be returned to—Dr. Sir

Yr. Most Obedt. Hble. Servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To JOHN PAGE, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 18th, Mar., 1799.

Dear Sir,

Colo. Thos Lee (of Londoun) is possessed, I am informed, of a tract of about 400 acres of Land within a mile of Colchester, which he is disposed to sell.—

Let me request the favour of you to describe it to me as accurately as you can from your *own* knowledge, or from the information of others on whose judgment you can rely.—

In doing this, say what the kind & quality of the doil is;—whether level or broken,—what the nature of the growth is;—what proportion is in wood;—how timbered;—what tenements are on it;—the condition of them;—whether much worn & gullied, or in good

heart;—and whether they are tenants at Will or on leases, & what kind of leases;—with the kindof improvements.—How watered also.—

To this catalogue of enquiries, permit me to ask, what, in your opinion, and the opinion of such as are acquianted with the value & prices of land in that neighbourhood, & situated as it is, it is worth in *cash*—also on credit, and what credit.—

I will offer no apology for giving you the trouble to make these enquiries, but shall thank you for answering them; as I have an object in requesting this kindness from you—with esteem

I am—Dear Sir
Your Obedient Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

To Captn. Wm. Thompson.

Mount Vernon 18th Mar. 1799

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th. Ulto. came duly to hand, and I feel obliged by the pains you were at to obtain gold thread for the uniform suit you were requested to make and forward to me.—I am perfectly satisfied that nothing was left unattempted on your part to comply with my order.

This article (gold thread) being expected in the Spring Importations, you will provide what is good, and have the suit compleated (by skilful workmen) agreeably to former directions, and sent in the manner required in my last letter.—

I am Sir
Your Very Hble. Servt.
G. Washington.

Mr. James McAlpin

MOUNT VERNON 25 Mar. 1799

Dear Sir,

The enclosed came under cover to me a few days ago, and not knowing into whose hands better to place it than yours, I forward it to you accordingly.—

The doing so, furnishes an opportunity of condoling with you and the other friends of Mr. John Dandridge, on his death; an event I sincerely regretted.—

From the superscription, I know the enclosed letter is from your brother Bartholomew; who, no doubt, has therein informed of his *present* situation; should I be mistaken however, in this conjecture,—he is *now* Secretary to our Minister (Mr. King) in London;—a Post as honourable, as it may ultimately prove advantageous to him in his passage through life.—The family at this place are all well, and offer you there best wishes—

With esteem I am—Dear Sir
Your Obedient & Hble. Servant.
G. WASHINGTON.

MR. JULIUS DANDRIDGE.

MOUNT VERNON 1st. July 1799

Gentlemen,

From my correspondent in Boston, I have (within these two days) received the bill of cost of Glass shipped from thence for my use—viz—$250.13—and am advised that the amount is to be paid to your house.

Be so good therefore to advise me whether you have any acct. in Alexandria to whom I shall pay the money?—or whether you would prefer having it remitted in a letter, in Bank Notes? as there is no person in Baltimore City whom I give the trouble of doing business for Gentlemen

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

MESSRS. SOLOMON COTTON & CO.
MERCHT. BALTIMORE.

MOUNT VERNON, 2d. July, 1799.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 25th has been received;—but you have mistaken the case entirely with respect to the Asses who were sent to my Jacks;—charging you nothing for the services of the latter, and not designed to lay you under obligation, but a feeble effort to repay the kindnesses you have heaped upon me.

Colo. Gilpin has forwarded the wrong box of glass to Baltimore, and soon will, I hope, receive the proper one in return.—

Enclosed is a check on the Bank of Alexandria for one thousand dollars agreeably to the demand of Mr. Blagden.—for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred on my buildings in the Fedl. City.

With very great esteen & regard. I am—Dear,

Your Obedt. & Hble. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. In the letter accompanying the glass from Boston—the makers say "the Glass must be set convex out."

To WILLM. THORNTON. Esqr.

MOUNT VERNON, 21st. July 1799

Gentlemen,

Enclosed are the other half parts of the two hundred and fifty dollars remitted in my letter of the 10th. instant, together with half a dollar to make the sum charged for the glass from the manufactury at Boston.–

If your letter of the 13th. acknowledging the receipt of that from me dated the 1st. instant which had been written instead on the 10th. which contained the parts of Bill, had taken the least notice of the contents of the letter, all doubt of their having reached you would have ceased, the mistake of dates notwithstanding.—

You will please to acknowledge the receipt of this money and the purpose for which it has been remitted by Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant
G. WASHINGTON.

SOLOMON COTTON & CO.

MOUNT VERNON 7th Augt. 1799

Sir,

Your letter of the 5th instant was presented to me yesterday on my way home, and not read until I reached here.

As I have no concern in publishing my letters unconnected with military affairs, so it it neither my *wish* or intention to interfere with them, if they do not relate to myself personally.—I have neither Doctor Thornton's letter nor my answer to it before me. I mean to express no sentiments on either;—or on the subject to which they aluded, further than that, a question was asked me to which I gave an answer from the best recollection I had of the case.

Because you have requested, and inasmuch as I had no opportunity of dealing therewith while I was in the City, I *now* enclose your letter *to me* of the above date to the Commissioners. The list transmitted us you will receive under this cover.

I am—Sir—Your most obedt. servt.
G. WASHINGTON.

MR. GEO. WALKER.

MOUNT VERNON, 14th. Aug., 1799.

Sir,

It is reported & generally believed that the Houses I am building in the Federal City are engaged to you.—

To your having the houses I have no objection, nor should I have any to the prevalance of the report, if a

specific agreement had ever taken place.—But as this is not the case, and until it happens may, & doubtless will be injurious to me; Inasmuch as they may prevent applications from others, it has become necessary that this matter should be clearly understood.

It is not my intention, nor is it my wish, on the one hand, to ask an unreasonable rent:—on the other hand, I am not disposed to be a loser by these buildings.—I have made the best enquiries my opportunities have afforded, into the expectations of others with respect to Rents, & find none who are inclined to let their property in the Federal City or anywhere else indeed, for less than seven & an half pr. cent on the whole expenditure:—to which they add the taxes thereof to that of Insurance against Fire.—Some, I am told, will not accept of this as an equivalent Rent, because it will give them little (if any more they say) than *common* interest for their money; when it is well known that the wear & tare if houses require much more.—

Upon the terms, however, herementioned (having no pecuniary inducement to build) you may become the occupant of my lots and the improvement thereon in the Federal City;—keeping them in repair as is customary; and rests with you to say yea, or nay, to make it a bargain or otherwise.—The whole amount of the cost can, & shall be shown to the minutest fraction, to whomsoever is disposed to acceded to these terms;—because the prices of the lots are known, & everything being new, the business ready, & can easily be shown to any one.—

You may reasonably, & justly suppose that the lots were obtained upon the best terms, because building houses where the condition thereof;—and because the materials were procured without credit, for I pay or demd. for them & the Worksmen's wages.—All parts of the work will I persuade myself, from the character of

the undertaker, be well executed, and in a neat & handsome but not a costly style.—

With this explanation & information you will be enabled to give a definitive answer:—which I shall shortly expect, that I may know whether to consider you as a Tenant or not.—One of the Houses, by contract is to be finished in November next.—The other in March, following.—

I am—Sir

Yr. Very Hble. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Mr. John Francis

Mount Vernon, 17th Aug., 1799.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 10th inst. enclosing a letter from Mr. Veatch of the 7th. instant, came duly to hand.—The receipt of which ought to have been sooner acknowledged as he appears to be waiting directions.

I am very well satisfied with the Rents of my part of Woodstock as they now stand;—but if you, on consulting Mr. Veatch should be of opinion that they could be placed on a better footing now, or at any time hence, it would be equally agreeable to me that you should make the attention and shall be confirmed by.

Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient & Obligd. Servt.

G. Washington.

To Colo. Francis Deakins.

Mount Vernon, 27th. Aug., 1799.

Sir,

By my Servant Tom, I was favoured with your letter of the 21st. instant.

I am persuaded that in the benefit which the nature of his case would advise he has, or will receive from

your treatment of the affliction under which he has been and if it is incurable he must be satisfied that I have neglected nothing to restore his spirit to him.—

It was an *imposition* to ask you for money, for I gave him more than sufficient to bear his expences down & up?—and *impudent* to say I had directed it.—A liberty I never should have thought of.

Your charge is extraordinarily moderate—and the amount is herein enclosed by, Sir

Your Most Obedient & Humble Servant

G. Washington.

To Doctr. William Baynham.

Mount Vernon 28th. Augt. 1799

Gentlemen,

Monday's mail brought me the enclosed letter of the 22nd. Instant from Colo. Pickering.—

As it is more in your line than in mine, to give it the consideration which so interesting a subject merits;—and as the field (hitherto so little cultivated) refers to the adoption of any plan which wisdom, sound policy & foresight may dictate, I take the liberty of transmitting it for your persual, being persuaded that the thought of any intelligent and well disposed person on a point of such importance to the wellbeing of a City which is designated to be the seat of Empire, cannot be illy received by you.

With great esteem and regard

I am Gentlemen

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

The Commissioners
of the Federal City.

Mount Vernon, 29th. Aug., 1799.

Mr. Roberts,

I have been much disappointed in not seeing you

according to promise—and more so from your silence.

My Miller's time as I informed you would be the case, expired the 12th. of this month; but rather than leave my mill to the care of negros, he has consented to remain until this time; & will do so until the day after tomorrow, when he has engaged a waggon to remove him & his things to the place to which he is going—many miles from hence.—

I request to hear from you immediately, for it is better to know the worst of a thing, than to be held in suspence. I remain

Your friend

G. Washington.

To Mr. Willm. Roberts.

Mount Vernon, 29th Augt. 1799.

Revd. Sir,

I have been duly favored with your letter of the 20th instant accompanying "The Philanthropist."

For your politeness in sending the latter, I pray you to receive my best thanks.—Much indeed is it to be wished that the sentiments contained in the Pamphlet, and the doctrine it endeavors to inculcate, were more prevalent.—Happy would it be for *this country at least*, if they were so.—But while the passions of mankind are under so little restraint as they are among us.—and while there are so many motives & views, to bring them into action we may wish for, but will never see the accomplishment of it.—With respect—I am–Revd. Sir

Your Most Obedt. & Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

To Revd. Mr. Mason Locke Weems

Mount Vernon, 30th. Aug., 1799.

Dear Sir,

Although I have more than a sufficient deposit in the

Bank of Alexandria take up my note, yet, as I know also that there will be calls upon me that may not conveniently answered without that aid;—I have thought it advisable (as the 60 days has, or is about to expire) to renew it:—and will thank you for taking the necessary steps, to effect it accordingly.—With very great esteem and regard—I am Dear Sir—

Your Most Obedt. & Affecte. Servt.

To WILLM. HERBERT, Esq. G. WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, 1st. Septr., 1799.

Dear Sir,

Your letter with its enclosure, was not received until after candlelight last night;—owing, I presume, to my not having sent to the Post Office on Friday:—rarely sending oftener than every other day, for my letters & Papers.—

I have put my name to the enclosed note, although it ought to have been at the Bank yesterday; to be returned, or destroyed, as circumstances require.—

This business of borrowing and discount (as you will perceive) I am quite a novice in.—What I meant by renewing my note, was no more than, instead of taking it up, by applying so much of my deposit in Bank to this purpose in payment thereof to let it remain—so as that, this sum might be at my command, whether I adopted proper means to effect this end, you are the best judge.—

It is quite immaterial to me, whether the discount was made last week—this week or the nest—provided all things are right with respect to the *old* note; which being for Sixty days I know ought to be paid at the end thereof, or renewed.—With this explanation of my intentions you will please to have, or cause to be done, what is proper on my part that I may not be brought into any unpleasant predicament at the Bank.—

It is far from my intention, or wish, to saddle you with the expence of stamps, and therefore pray to be charged with their cost, and to be told where, & in what manner I can be provided with others.—With very great esteem—I am—Dear Sir

Yr. Most Obedt. & Affecte. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON'

To WILLM. HERBERT, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 1st. Septr. 1799

Sir,

I have been duly honoured with your favor of the 13th. of April from Falmouth accompanying what I presuade myself will (when opened) be found to be, a very fine Cheese; as all which I have had from you have proved.

For this additional evidence of your kind, and polite attention to me, I pray you to accept my gratitude and thanks.—

Unsuccessful in my first attempt to get a few (Virginia) Hams to you I am making another trial—through the medium of Messrs. Thompson & Veitch—and hope they will meet with a better fate than the last.—

For your obliging wishes respecting me I feel very sensible.—I reciprocate them cordially—and am

Sir

Your obliged and

Most Obed. Hble. Servt.

GO. WASHINGTON.

MR. WM. HAMBLY.

MOUNT VERNON Septr. 1st. 1799

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 12th. of August, together with the Oration delivered by you in Boston on the 17th. of July.—

I thank you for the very flattering sentiments which you have expressed in your letter respecting myself, and I consider your sending me your Oration as a mark of polite attention which demands my best acknowledgment;—and I pray you will be assured, that I am never more gratified than when I see the effusions of genius from some of the rising generation, which promises to secure our National rank in the literary world, and trust their firm, manly and patriotic conduct will ever maintain it with dignity in the Political.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

Mr. Thomas (*afterward Robert Treat*) Paine

Mount Vernon 11th. Sep. 1799

Dear Sir,

The 20th. of this month—when Mr. Blagden would require an advance of a thousand dollars—being near at hand—and Mr. (Thomas) Peter affording a good and safe opportunity to remit it—I enclose for this purpose a check on the Bank of Alexandria, to that amount.

Mr. Peter informs me that his brother ———— has Ironmongery of a good quality, which he wants to dispose of, and would sell cheap.—I pray you therefore to inform Mr. Blagden of this circumstance,—request him to examine it,—and if of the kind & quality he requires & to be had on good terms to supply himself therefrom, and at the foot of the Invoice to draw upon me for the amount; which shall be immediately paid. With great esteem & regard

I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

Willm. Thornton Esqr. G. Washington.

MOUNT VERNON 22d. Sepr. 1799

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 16th. instt. has been received, informing me of the death of my brother.

The death of near relatives always produce awful, and affecting emotions, under whatsoever circumstances it may happen.—That of my brother's has been so long expected,—and his later days so uncomfortable to himself, must have prepared all around him for the stroke, though painful in the effect.

I was the first and now the last of my father's Children by the second marriage who remain.—When I will be called upon to follow is known only to the giver of life.—When the summons comes I shall endeavor to obey with a good grace.—Mrs. Washington has been and still is very much indisposed—but joins with me in best wishes for you & Mrs. Ball and family. —With great esteem & regard

I am—Dear Sir—Your affect. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

COLO. BURGESS BALL.

MOUNT VERNON 22nd. Septr. 1799

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 16th. Instant came to my hands by the last post. I learn with regret the cause of General [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney's visit to Rhode Island. From the accounts of his Lady's health by Brigr. Genl. Washington, it is to be feared her case is dangerous.

I am sorry to hear that the Recruiting Service, in the district to which you were assigned, progresses so slowly.—It was conjectured beforehand that you would have many difficulties to encounter there.—The result therefore, is not a matter of surprise.

Until you are requested to join the General Officer to whose person you are attached,—or directed by him to remain Stationary for the purpose of receiving, & executing his orders, I conceive it will be best on you to obey the orders of your Colonel.

Mr. Lear left this a few days ago for the air of the Mountains.—Mrs. Washington has been much indisposed but joins in greeting you with

Dr. Sir—Yr. Obedt. Servt.

G. Washington.

Capt. Presly Thornton.

Mount Vernon, 25th Sept., 1799.

Sir,

Your letter of the 2nd. instt. came duly to hand;—but previous thereto, I had written to Mr. Francis of Philadelphia, (who *report* had engaged the houses to, I was building in the Federal City) to have in explicit terms whether he meant to take them, or not, on the conditions I offered them,—namely—Seven and an half per sent on the whole cost;—to which, taxes, if any and Insurance against fire, were to be added.— On lower terms, no person in the Fedl. City, or elsewhere that I could hear of would let—; a but few who would sell on these, as it was but little more than legal and common interest of money when it is well known that the wear & of houses required much more.—

I have waited until now, to name Mr. Francis's answer, without hearing from him; which has been the cause of my not replying to your letter sooner.— If his answer is detained much longer, I shall feel myself under no obligation to prefer him, because he was the first applicant, for them.—

Although my house, or houses (for they may be one or two as occasion requires) are I believe, upon a large scale than any in the vicinity of the Capital, yet they,

fall far short of your wishes.—The largest room, and that occasionally made so, is not more than a foot in length.—The houses are three flush stories of Brick, besides Garret rooms:—and in the judgment of those better acquainted in these matters than I am, capable of accommodating between twenty & thirty boarders.—The buildings are not costly, but elegantly plain.—and the whole cost—at a pretty neat guess—may be between fifteen and sixteen thousand dollars.—I am Sir

Your very Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

To Mr. John Avery.

Mount Vernon 30th. Septr. 1799

Sir,

I ought to begin this letter with an apology for having neglected to do, what should have been done long ago, that is—to remit the balance due on my subscription for Mr. Trumbull's Prints.—

The truth is—that by waiting awhile for the unpacking of my papers to see if any thing would be found elucidative of my payment on this occasion, the thing had escaped me altogether, and occured again by accident.

I now find that on the 5th of April 1790, I paid to John Trumbull, Esqr. twelve guineas, which is entered in my Books as being one half of the subscription for four copies of two prints to be published by him.—This, I presume, was paid at the time of my subscribing; and as you observe in your letter of the 26th. of March, that the other half of the subscription money was to be paid on delivery of the prints, I enclose you a check on the Bank of Pennsylvania for twelve guineas more—say fifty six dollars—for which sum, when you shall

have received it, I pray you to advise me, specifying in the receipt, the purpose for which it was paid.

I am Sir

Your Obedt. Hble. Servant

Go. Washington.

Mr. Joseph Anthony

Mount Vernon, 18th. Nov., 1799.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 13th. instt. and its enclosure, did not reach my hands until Saturday morning.—

Enclosed you will find a check on the Bank of Columbia, for my dividend on stock in that Bank, for the last half year.—Not knowing precisely, what percentage it drew, I am uncertain whether it will exceed, or fall short of your demand on me, for the 2d. Instalment on lot, No. 16, in the City.—If the latter, please to informme of the deficiency and the amount shall be transmitted in Bank notes.—With great esteem & regard,

I am Gentlemen,

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servt.,

G. Washington.

To The Commissioners of The Federal City.

Mount Vernon, 18th Novr., 1799.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 13th instt. came duly to hand.—I am now making arrangements at the Bank of Alexandria for obtaining money.—When this is accomplished I will forward a check on that Bank for the $1000 required by Mr. Blagden, & hope it will be in time to answer his purposes.—

I have no objection for Mr. Blagden's frequent calls for money but I fear the work which is not enumerated in the Contract with him, is pretty smartly whipped up in the price of it.—I had no expectation (for instance)

that a well little more than 30 feet deep, was to cost me upwards of £70.—I may, however, have misconceived the matter from ignorance of the usual rates.—With great esteem & regard—I am—Dr. Sir

Yr. Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To WILLM. THORNTON, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 20th. Novr., 1799.

Sir,

Your favour of the 15th. instant, in answer to my letters of the 9th & 8th & addressed to the Surveyor General of the Land Office (wch. proves the necessity there was for my plea of ignorance) came duly to hand, with the Land Office Treasury warrants for your obliging attention to which, I pray you to accept my thanks.

Perceiving by your letter that Willm. Shepherd has made a Survey, & returned it to your Office, similar in *some respects* to my proposed Entry; and believing that it must have been done unknowingly to those who have lands adjoining,—and comprehends land always reputed to be mine; and so understood by all the neighbourhood thereabts. I request the favour of you to furnish me with a copy of the Survey & Plat, that I may be enabled thereby to investigate the matter more fully.—Until which, I must beg that this letter may be considered as a covent against a Grant thereof to Wm. Shepherd.

If the rules & Proceedings in your Office require a more formal protest against such issue, I must rely on your goodness to advice me, for having had very little to do with the local Laws of the State since the Revolution, & not having those passed since that period by me, I may be mistaken in this, as in my former application.—

Enclosed is a five dollar Bill:—if it be insufficient to

cover the expense of the Land Warrant,—Copy of Shepherd's Survey,—and the Protest against a Grant issuing thereon you will please to advice.

As another proof of my unacquaintedness in this business my expectation was, that the Entry I proposed to make would have covered *all* the land within the described location,—but the warrant fix it, I perceive, to 100 acres *only*.—It may be more or it may be kess; and cannot be ascertained until, the Survey is made.—I should not like to be fixed to the above quantity, if the vacant land exceeds it.—

I am Sir—

Your Most Obedient and Very Hble. Servant

G. WASHINGTON.

To WILLM. PRICE, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 20th. Nov., 1799.

Dear Sir,

When I wrote to you the other day, I expected to have settled matters with the Bk. of Alexandria so as to have been enabled to have sent you, for Mr. Blagden's use, a check thereon for $1000.—But not being well enough acquainted with the rules of the Bank, I suffered what are called discount days, to pass over before I applied; for which reason the business *there* must remain over until after Tuesday of next week.

But, if to do this will be attended with any inconvenience to Mr. Blagden, and he will be at the trouble of riding, or sending any person down here, competent to receive the money—Mr. Lewis, who has it by him, will lend me that sum, and it shall be paid of this I would thank you for informing Mr. Blagden.

With esteem &ca.,

I remain Yr. Obedt. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To WILLM. THORNTON, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON 23rd. Novr. 1799.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 19th. was recd. yesterday.—If my attendance at Mr. Heiskell's in Alexandria on the 26th. could render you any *real* service, I would do it with pleasure.—

But all that I could relate would be *hearsay* whilst means exist, to obtain (I presume) positive proofs of the facts you wish to establish.

With respect to the division of the tract of (what you call) 51,302 acres, I am as ignorant as any man whom you might pick up, *by chance* in the Streets of Alexandria.—

I *believe* Mr. Jno. West, deceased, was one of the Patentee' in the large Survey of the Mo. of the Great Kanhawa;—but to this fact I would give no positive evidence:—for after being at the *whole* trouble, and the *greater* part of the expence to obtain a recognition of the original grant of 200,000 Acres;—and being *compelled*, very improperly I did think, and always have thought, to take it in twenty Surveys, the Government and Council found themselves, by this act (which was protested against) under the necessity of jumbling a number of names into the same Patent, in order to give each claimant according to his grade, & the ratio they had alloted him the 9th (?) allowed,—whereas if the privilege of locating that quality, within the District which they had assigned for this purpose had been given to each Claimant, it would have prevented all the difficulties, and perplexities which have ensued, to the inconvenience of all, and entire loss of the land to some.—

But thus the matter was ordered, by that body,—after which, and the issuing of the Patents consequent thereof, my Agency ceased; and I concerned myself

with no other part of the land than was assigned me, & such as I purchased thereafter of others.—

With respect to the decision of the tract you allude to,—so far am I from knowing that it was made *according to law*, that I do not know it was ever made;—and as to the issue of Mr. Jno. West, I am entirely unacquainted, otherwise than by report;—never having been in his house, that I recollect, more than once—and that over 30 years ago—and 25 of which but little in this state.— I am Gentn.

Your very Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

Messrs. Hepburn & Dundas.

Mount Vernon, 1st. Decr., 1799.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 27th ulto.—If you have no vessel passing *below this* (from whence the Sugar could be landed with very little trouble or delay) I request that it may be deposited at Colo. Gilpin's, in Alexandria.—

Let the cask in which it is packed, be well secured,—the sugars hitherto had from you, has, sometimes, fallen short in weight.—I am Sir

Your Very Hble. Servant

G. Washington.

Mount Vernon 4th Dec.r 1799

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 27th Ult.o - If you have no Vessel passing below this (from whence the Sugar could be landed with very little trouble or delay) I request that it may be deposited at Col.o Gilpin's, in Alexandria. -

Let the cask in which it is packed, be well secured, - the Sugars hitherto had from you, has, sometimes, fallen short in weight. - I am Sir -

Your very Hble Servant

G.o Washington

Mr. James Piercy

TRACED FACSIMILE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHARACTERISTIC WRITING.

MOUNT VERNON, 2d. Decr., 1799.

Sir,

I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 25th ulto. enclosing a copy of the Survey made for William Shepherd, for four & three quarter acres, and the form of a Carrate against the issuing a Patent therefor.

I cannot from the Survey, discover with presision where this land lyes, and therefore shall give no further opposition to the Grant of it.—If it be, where I *suspect* it is within the bounds of a Patent under which I hold, of more than sixty years' standing—of course, cannot effect it.—

I am sorry that I have given you so much trouble in this business, at the same time that I feel obliged by the prompt and ready advice you have been so kind as to give me for the prosecution of it. From what I had heard of Shepherd's Survey, I conceived differently of its object.—

I am Sir—

Your Obedt. Hble. Servt.

G. WASHINGTON.

To WILLM. PRICE, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 2d. Decr. 1799

Dear Sir,

Since you mentioned the Plaster of Paris which was for sale in Richmond, (but after you left this) it occurred to me that as it was not a saleable article with you it might be my cheapest mode to purchase *there* to supply my wants of this article next year on my Farms around me.—

Permit me, for this reason, to ask the favour of you to learn from the Gentleman who has it for sale,—what quantity he has?—the lowest price he would take for it by the ton (the whole being purchased) there?—and what delivered at my landing?—As a Merchant, ac-

quainted with Navigation, he will be at no loss to know at what freight it could be delivered here.

A Gentleman now in Alexandria is endeavouring to obtain Subscribers for a vessel load from Nova Scotia; the terms I have not learned;—but if that in Richmond be *good*, and had as low, I should prefer because it is already in the Country, and the risques of the Sea avoided.—

All, however, depends upon its being of the *true sort* for without this, it would be as useless for the purpose intended, as pebble stones.—There are two colours of it —one has a greyish—the other a blewish cast;—the latter I think is prefered; but both are good when perfectly free from grit, or sand;—having any of the latter is a proof of its baseness.—The best criterion for ascertaining its property, is, by putting the fine powder of the plaster, into a skillet or Pot without moisture,— the good will swell, or rise up; the bad will remain dead, & motionless.—

I would thank you for sending me (if to be had) two glaized leather hats such as your Postilions wore, and of that size.—Accompany them with the cost, and the money shall be remitted in a bank note.—I am in no immediate want of them; an occasional, or water transportation (directed to the home of Colo. Gilpin in Alexa.) will do.—

I hope you got down safe.—Our Comps. to Mrs. Carrington.—I am always— Dear Sir

Your Affecte. and Obedt.

G. Washington.

To Colo. (Edward) Carrington.

Mount Vernon, 25th June, 1798.

Dear Sir,

You will perceive by the enclosed in what manner I am disappointed in receiving the Rent for my house in

Alexandria. These things put you, the payer & myself in an awkward situation, for it must seem strange to demand what has been paid. I must therefore request, in explicit terms, that you will receive no more monies due to me, and I should be glad to have a statement of the % as it stands between us, since the last was rendered,—it appearing by information, from my Collector in Montgomery County, Maryland, that some parts of my Rents there, had been paid to you since the period above mentioned.

I have not the smallest doubt of my being credited for every farthing you receive—on my %—but that does not remedy the evil. With sincere esteem and regard—I am Yr Affe

Go Washington

Mr. Lear.

[Washington Papers, Library of Congress]

Mount Vernon, 26th June, 1798.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Anderson requesting that the boy who was going to the Post Office yesterday, might call & deliver a letter to you, from him, concerning flour.—Availing myself of that conveyance, I sat down, and was in the act of writing the hasty lines you received from me by him, when I was summoned to dinner. In my hurry to close and Seal it, I omitted the enclosure then refered to, and which is now forwarded.

I can only repeat, what I mentioned yesterday, that I never had the most distant suspicion that every farthing that you had received, or might receive on my %, would be justly credited, but this will not supply my wants, and it would be uncandid and inconsistent with the frankness of friendship, not to declare that I have not approved nor cannot approve, of having my money received and applied to uses not my own, without my

consent, and even without advice of it; which, among other improprieties of the measure, involves the awkward, and unpleasant consequences mentioned in my letter of yesterday.

You must be too well acquainted with the product of my Farms, & the expence I live at, to need information that my income, arising from them, would not meet my expenditures, and that, had it not been for monies arising from the Sale of Lands, my business must have stopped, or my embarrassments at this moment would have been great and in this last resourse, I have met with disappointments, for of three—nay four—Instalments for different tracts of land, *now* & sometime *since* due, I see no likelihood of receiving a shilling.

I do not bring these facts to your view with intention of reminding you of your Debt to me. On the contrary, take your own time, & convenience, to pay it,—but let the whole % be settled, that I may see, and know the precise statement of the Balance between us. With the greatest esteem & friendship, I remain

Your Affectionate

G. Washington

Mr. Lear

[Washington Papers, Library of Congress.]

Mount Vernon, 4th July 1798

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter and % of the 2d Inst. and presume it is all right. I wish however you had charged the Scow, & given credit, for the articles had from Mr. Anderson, as it was my wish to have seen a complete state of it.

The thousand dollars lent, was not on usury; and therefore I desire it may be struck out of your %, as I shall do it out of mine, when it comes to be entered in my Ledger.—I mean the Interest, which you have

given me credit for—$60—And it is not my desire, as I mentioned in my former letter, that you should put yourself to any inconvenience in paying the principal.

I have been so much engaged for the few days, past, that I have been unable to look into any accounts whatever, of course, I cannot now say what has been charged to me, as paid to you. I recollected however, that this was plead, when my Collector in Maryland was called upon for my Rents.

My Papers are yet in such a jumble, that I know not where, readily to look for your former %; but it dwells upon my Memory that in that, I was charged with £50 paid the Trustees of the Academy in Alexandria—if I am right in this, the Treasurer thereof has received a year's annuity more than the School is entitled to. Reference to your Books, if you have them by you, or to the % rendered to me when I come across it, will decide the matter at once.

With very great esteem and respect
I am Dear Sir
Your affectionate
G. Washington

Mr Lear

[From the Washington Papers, Library of Congress.]

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